



Leaks, accusations and staff shuffle: Turmoil inside DHS

By C. LONG and J. COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top official's resignation. And above all, increasingly dire conditions for migrants — those who make it across the border and those who fail, as captured in the searing images of a father clutching his child, both drowned, on the banks of the Rio Grande. Ever engulfed in turmoil under President Donald Trump, the Department of Homeland Security has entered a new stage of dysfunction and finger-pointing as the administration continues to rearrange staff and push hardline rhetoric and policies that have failed to contain a surge in illegal border crossings, according to more than a dozen current and former administration officials, congressional aides and people familiar with the events.

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Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan watches as the color guard arrives for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Department of Homeland Security's St. Elizabeths Campus Center Building in Washington, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

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Leaks, accusations and staff shuffle: Turmoil inside DHS

Continued from Front

Many spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations. The squabbling and jockeying over jobs come amid outrage over reports of children being held in squalid conditions and families dying as they try to make it to the U.S.

Over the past week alone, a scrapped immigration roundup targeting families prompted infighting and accusations of leaking. The acting leaders at both U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which manages the border, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which handles immigration enforcement inside the country, have ei-

ther stepped down or been reassigned. And questions remain about whether the president has confidence in the man he recently tapped to head the sprawling DHS, acting secretary Kevin McAleenan.

The leadership merry-go-round has spun so many times that it's hard to keep track of who is in charge of what. And most of those leaders have not been officially nominated by Trump, let alone confirmed by the Senate.

"DHS is charged with keeping the nation secure, but the president is putting its leadership through a constant game of musical chairs to fit his political agenda," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, chairman of the House Homeland

Security Committee. The 240,000-person department is tasked with election and cyber security, disaster response and even the Secret Service. But in Trump's world, Homeland Security means one thing: immigration. The president's signature issue makes the department his focus and his ire. Balancing a White House eager to push major changes with the reality on the ground is a constant challenge.

Trump's efforts in recent weeks have featured whip-lash-inducing threats and reversals. The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

Last week, Mark Morgan, newly installed as acting director of ICE, sought to please his boss by moving



A migrant mother and children ride a freight train on their way north, in Palenque, Chiapas state, Mexico, Monday, June 24, 2019. The group's next stop will be Coatzacoalcas, Veracruz state.

Associated Press

forward with a long-considered operation that would target families living in the U.S. illegally. But questions remained, including whether there was enough detention space available for families, what would happen to the children of arrested parents, and whether the effort made sense, given the crisis at the border. Then Trump tweeted without warning that a massive deportation operation was in the works. Damage control quickly ensued, with heated meetings at the White House. And on Friday, specific details of the operation leaked to the press, including information about when the operation would begin and which cities it would target. Amid finger-pointing over where the leak had come from, ICE canceled it over concerns for officer safety. Trump later said he called off the raids at the request of Democrats.

But the leaks enraged ICE officials. Former ICE head Tom Homan, a strong proponent of Trump's policies, seemed to point a finger at McAleenan during an appearance on Fox News.

"This leak, which I know

where it came from, we all know where it came from," he said. Homan said the leaks put "officers at greater risk of harm."

Homan told The Associated Press Wednesday that he had never said McAleenan was to blame.

"McAleenan's a very talented man. I think he's a smart man. And I hope he's successful. And I think he's done some good things," he said.

McAleenan hasn't commented. He has, however, pleaded with Congress for more money to help manage the influx of migrants at the border. Facilities are vastly strained, agents and officers are working around the clock, and the department is forced to divert funding and manpower. But the future of the emergency funding request is unclear, with the GOP-led Senate and the Democratic-led House passing different versions of the bill.

More immigration staffing also remains under discussion. Homan said he remains open to joining the administration as an immigration czar, even after Trump jumped the gun by saying on Fox that it was a done deal. □

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Graves of US WWII servicemen unearthed on Pacific island

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — An organization that searches for the remains of U.S. servicemen lost in past conflicts has found what officials believe are the graves of more than 30 Marines and sailors killed in one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

A team working on the remote Pacific atoll of Tarawa found the graves in March, said Mark Noah, president of the nonprofit History Flight.

The remains are believed to belong to Marines and sailors from the 6th Marine Regiment killed during the last night of the three-day Battle of Tarawa.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency expects to pick up the remains and fly them to Hawaii next month, said Dr. John Byrd, director of agency's laboratories. Military forensic anthropologists will then work to identify them using dental records, DNA and other clues.

More than 990 U.S. Marines and 30 U.S. sailors were killed in the 1943 Battle of Tarawa, after the U.S. launched an amphibious assault on the small island about 2,300 miles (3,700 kilometers) southwest of Honolulu.

Marines and sailors quickly encountered Japanese machine-gun fire when their boats got stuck on the reef at low tide. Americans who made it to the beach faced brutal hand-to-hand combat.

The U.S. military buried its men in makeshift cem-

eteries where they fell. But Navy construction battalion sailors removed markers for these graves when they hurriedly built runways and other infrastructure to help U.S. forces push farther west across the Pacific toward Japan.

History Flight has recovered the remains of 68 individuals and more than 200 sets of partial remains from Tarawa since 2015, when it began excavating under a contract with the Defense Department, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said.

The military is paying History Flight \$4.1 million for the current contract lasting from February 2018 through July.

Tarawa is now part of the Republic of Kiribati. Its government allowed History Flight to demolish an abandoned building in its latest search. Many of the graves were underneath it.

A large number of graves also are below the water table, meaning History Flight workers must pump water from the site each day to excavate.

Byrd said the Army Graves Registration Service excavated some of Tarawa's temporary cemeteries in the late 1940s but left be-

hind parts of individuals during this process.

History Flight is now thoroughly excavating these gravesites, leading them to find partial remains that have been matched with those already buried as "unknowns" in a national cemetery in Honolulu. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency dug up these remains in 2017 to make additional identifications. The agency has identified more than 100 people excavated from Tarawa and the Honolulu cemetery since 2015. □



This June 1, 2019 photo provided by History Flight shows graves of U.S. servicemen under the water table in Tarawa, Kiribati.
Associated Press



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Senate passes \$4.6B border aid measure; Pelosi seeks talks

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** and **ALAN FRAM**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The GOP-held Senate on Wednesday passed a bipartisan \$4.6 billion measure to deliver aid to the southern border before the government runs out of money to care for thousands of migrant families and unaccompanied children.

The sweeping 84-8 vote came less than 24 hours after the Democratic-controlled House approved a similar measure backed by liberals. The House bill, which contained tougher requirements for how detained children must be treated, faced a White House veto threat and was easily rejected by the Senate.

As a result, it remained unclear how the two chambers would resolve their differences and send President Donald Trump a compromise measure that he would sign.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Democrats would propose changes to the Senate legislation on Thursday, and spokesman Drew Hammill said they planned to quickly push the amended measure through the House. That still left questions about whether the Senate and Trump would accept the revisions and how quickly the Senate could act.

"We pray that the White House and the Senate will join us in embracing the children and meeting their needs," Pelosi said in a written statement after meeting privately with other top House Democrats.

Pelosi's statement called for inclusion of provisions setting standards of care for children and limiting



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., left, talks with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., before a House vote on the SAFE Act (Securing America's Federal Elections Act) which aims to protect the integrity of elections from outside interference, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

how long they could be detained. They would block Trump from shifting the bill's money to programs Congress has not specifically approved, tighten reporting requirements and let lawmakers visit immigration facilities without providing advance notice.

Pelosi called Trump Wednesday afternoon to discuss the measure. "There's some improvements that we think can be reconciled," Pelosi told reporters.

Trump said passing the legislation was urgent as he left the White House for Japan and he appeared to leave the door open for negotiations.

"We are moving along very well with a bipartisan bill in the Senate," Trump said. "It's very far along and I believe the House is also going to also be getting

together with the Senate to get something done. It's humanitarian aid. It's very important."

The final outcome isn't clear.

Congress plans to leave Washington in a few days for a weeklong July 4 recess, and pressure is intense to wrap up the legislation before then. Failure to act could bring a swift political rebuke and accusations of ignoring the plight of innocent immigrant children who are living in overcrowded, often inadequate federal facilities.

The Senate vote comes less than 24 hours after the House passed its version largely along party lines. The funding is urgently needed to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the U.S.-Mexico border from worsening.

Senate Majority Leader

Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., blasted the House bill earlier Wednesday.

"They had to drag their bill way to the left to earn the support of most Democrats," McConnell said. "As a result, the House has not made much progress toward actually making a law, just more resistance theater."

Asked Wednesday if he's open to adding some language sought by the House, McConnell said, "We're working on finishing up this week and getting it to the president."

The Senate rejected the House bill by 55-37.

Both House and Senate measures contain more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are

turned over the Department of Health and Human Services. The Senate measure is not as strict in setting conditions on the delivery of funding to care for unaccompanied children and contains funding opposed by House Democrats for the Pentagon and to ease a payroll pinch at Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The House and Senate bills ensure funding could not be shifted to Trump's border wall and would block information on sponsors of immigrant children from being used to deport them. Trump would be denied additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds. Lawmakers' sense of urgency was amplified by a widely circulated, horrid photo of the bodies of a migrant father and toddler daughter who perished on the banks of the Rio Grande River.

Also building pressure were recent reports of gruesome conditions in a windowless Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, where more than 300 infants and children were being housed. Many were kept there for weeks and were caring for each other in conditions that included inadequate food, water and sanitation. The Border Patrol reported apprehending nearly 133,000 people last month — including many Central American families — as monthly totals have begun topping 100,000 for the first time since 2007. Federal agencies involved in immigration have reported being overwhelmed, depleting their budgets and housing large numbers of detainees in structures meant for handfuls of people. □

NRA splits with PR firm, lobbyist and TV amid infighting

By LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

Infighting at the National Rifle Association exploded Wednesday, when the powerful association severed ties with its longtime public relations firm, suspended operations of its fiery online TV station and lost its top lobbyist.

The latest turmoil emerged just a year before the critical 2020 presidential elections when the NRA's ability to influence the outcome could decide the fate of gun rights.

Lobbyist Chris Cox, long viewed as the likely successor to longtime CEO Wayne LaPierre, was placed on administrative leave about a week ago by the NRA, which claimed he was part of a failed attempt to extort LaPierre and push him out.

It also came within hours of the association officially severing ties with Ackerman McQueen, the Oklahoma-based public relations firm that has shaped some of the NRA's most memorable messages in the past decades.

Cox had been the executive director of the NRA's lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Action, since 2002.

He was credited with leading efforts to allow a decadelong ban on "assault weapons" to expire in 2004, an achievement that allowed the gun industry to resume selling what the industry calls "modern sporting rifles" and critics claim are used too often to exact mass carnage.

His resignation was confirmed by NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam. No other comment was immediately made about his departure.

Cox did not immediately return a message seeking comment. However, when he was suspended, Cox said in a statement obtained by The New York Times that allegations he had been part of a group seeking LaPierre's ouster

were "offensive and patently false."

"For 24 years I have been a loyal and effective leader in this organization," he said.

Cox played his usual prominent role at the NRA's annual meeting in Indianapolis in April, and there was little public evidence that he and LaPierre or the NRA's board of directors were at odds. Infighting spilled out during what is normally a pep rally of sorts among gun-rights enthusiasts when Oliver North, then the NRA president, threatened to expose questionable personal and travel expenses unless LaPierre stepped down. Instead, LaPierre turned the tables on North and accused him of trying to extort him into submission.

Joel Friedman, a longtime NRA board member, told The Associated Press his first reaction when he heard that Cox was stepping down was surprise. He said he saw no indications during the annual meeting that Cox was in a dispute with LaPierre.

LaPierre announced Cox's resignation in an email sent Wednesday to staff and NRA board members that was obtained by the AP. The letter also said an investigation will continue into allegations that North sought to extort LaPierre and that the storied Marine veteran was aided by Cox, a claim first laid out in a lawsuit filed June 19.

In the past few months, the NRA has filed several lawsuits against Ackerman McQueen, accusing it of refusing to document its billings and of seeking to undermine the association. Ackerman McQueen has countersued, claiming the NRA is trying to renege on its financial obligations and smear the public relations firm.

Last year, NRA began asking all of its vendors for detailed documentation about its billings after New York authorities began



In this April 26, 2019 file photo, National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action Executive Director Christopher W. Cox speaks at the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

threatening to investigate the NRA's nonprofit status. The NRA was founded shortly after the Civil War and is chartered in New York, giving that state broad authority to investigate its operations.

During its two decades by the NRA's side, Ackerman McQueen was responsible for crafting the association's aggressive messaging, including the now-famous "From my cold dead hands" line uttered by actor Charlton Heston in 2000 as he vowed to resist any effort to take away his guns. The line became a rallying cry for gun owners around the country.

Ackerman McQueen also created and operated NRATV.

In a statement posted Wednesday on the NRA website, LaPierre said it would no longer be airing live programming and would be evaluating the station's future. It wasn't clear what would happen to its prominent hosts but there appeared to be no signs those on-air personalities, who are employees of Ackerman McQueen, would find spots at the NRA.

In a lawsuit, the NRA said some of its members had questioned NRATV's weighing in on "topics far afield of the Second Amendment."

In a statement Wednesday, Ackerman McQueen accused the NRA of trying to avoid its financial obligations by shuttering NRATV and implied its financial woes are partly the result of now paying for high-priced lawyers.

"When given the opportunity to do the right thing, the NRA once again has taken action that we believe is intended to harm our company even at the expense of the NRA itself," the company said.

"For Ackerman McQueen, it is time to move on to a new chapter without the chaos that has enveloped the NRA," the statement continued.

"Ackerman McQueen will continue to fight against the NRA's repeated violations of its agreement with our company with every legal remedy available to us, but we will always be proud of the work that we completed during our 38-year relationship on behalf of the individual citizens that are the NRA." □



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Gas prices could rise after fire-stricken refinery closes

By **MARC LEVY and CATHY BUSSEWITZ**

Associated Press

The largest oil refinery on the East Coast said Wednesday that it will close after a devastating fire last week that set off explosions and damaged equipment, and analysts said consumers could see gas prices rise as summer travel hits full swing.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions sent a notice to state labor officials that it will shut the plant down Monday and lay off about 1,020 workers there in the next two weeks after that. The fire significantly damaged equipment and systems at a complex that was already struggling financially, the company said.

Gasoline futures prices spiked Tuesday night after the first news of the refinery's possible closure, and prices remained high Wednesday, according to the markets research company FactSet.

Motorists in the Mid-Atlantic region will likely see modest price increases as more summer travelers hit the road, AAA spokeswoman Jana Tidwell said in a statement.

The refinery has been an important source fueling transportation in the region, far from Gulf Coast refineries, and "at least temporarily, it's going to require



In this June 21, 2019 file photo, flames and smoke emerge from the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refining Complex in Philadelphia.

some logistical shifting that could come at a cost," said Kevin Book, managing director at Clearview Energy Partners.

But while the amount of gasoline that will be lost from the refinery is sizable, it can easily be made up by imports from Europe or elsewhere, said Jonathan Aronson, a research analyst at Cornerstone Macro. "We're not expecting any major shocks to retail gasoline (prices)," Aronson said. Consumers are more likely to feel gasoline prices increase due to the price of crude oil, which has been

rallying in recent days, he said.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions is pursuing opportunities to restart the complex but cannot give any guarantees and, as a result, "all layoffs are expected to be permanent," the company said.

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey said in a statement that his office was in touch with company officials and that he hopes that an alternative will emerge in coming weeks to prevent the refinery from closing permanently. The company has shown a declining cash balance

in the six months through March while its long-term debt grew, according to reports the company files in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.

The 150-year-old oil refining complex processes 335,000 barrels of crude oil daily, according to PES. The refinery turns the crude into gasoline, jet fuel, propane, home heating oil and other products.

It started as a bulk petroleum storage facility in 1866 and began refinery operations in 1870.

The company emerged from federal bankruptcy

Associated Press

court last year after restructuring its debt, leaving its majority ownership in the hands of investment banking firms Credit Suisse Asset Management and Bardin Hill.

Friday's fire at the complex broke out early in the morning, and video showed an enormous orange blast bursting into the sky.

It set off three explosions felt miles away as the fire plowed through a tangle of pipes carrying fuel across the complex, the company has said. It happened at the Girard Point refinery, one of two at the PES complex in south Philadelphia.

The fire erupted in a tank containing a mixture of butane and propane, a fire official said.

Investigators haven't been able to go to some areas at the complex because they haven't yet been assessed by a structural engineer, the city fire commissioner's office said Wednesday.

United Steelworkers, which represents the refinery workers, is investigating whether the company had insurance coverage for a destroyed alkylation unit, Ryan O'Callaghan, the president of Local 10-1, told The Philadelphia Inquirer. It would push the company to rebuild the unit, he said. "It appears they're cashing the check and heading for the doors," he said. □

2 more deputies fired for inaction after school shooting



Broward Sheriff Gregory Tony, center, announces that two additional deputies have been fired as a result of the agency's internal affairs investigation into the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, at the Broward Sheriff's Office headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

By **CURT ANDERSON**

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP)—Two addition-

Associated Press

al deputies have been fired as a result of an internal affairs investigation into the

response to the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland that killed 17 people, the Broward County sheriff said Wednesday.

At a brief news conference, Sheriff Gregory Tony said deputies Edward Eason and Josh Stambaugh were fired Tuesday for their inaction following the Feb. 14, 2018, shooting.

A state investigative commission found that Stambaugh was working an off-duty shift at a nearby school when he responded to reports of shots fired at the school. He got out of his truck, put on his bulletproof vest and took cover

for about five minutes after hearing the shots, according to body camera footage. He then drove to a nearby highway instead of going toward the school. Eason ran the other way as gunfire continued, then spent time putting on his bulletproof vest and body camera while the carnage continued, investigators said. Eason was also faulted for not writing an official report after receiving a tip in February 2016 that the shooting suspect, Nikolas Cruz, was making threats on social media to shoot up a school. Tips to the FBI about Cruz also were not followed up, a separate in-

vestigation has found.

Two other deputies were fired earlier this month for neglect of duty. One of those was school resource officer Scot Peterson, who was also arrested on charges of child neglect, culpable negligence and perjury. Peterson's lawyer has said he will fight the charges. The sheriff said no action was taken on three other deputies who were involved in the investigation. Scott Israel, the sheriff at the time, was removed from office by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for similar reasons. He is appealing that decision before the state Senate. □

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Tribe's push to build casino spurs Carolinas political fight

By GARY D. ROBERTSON
and JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

CATAWBA INDIAN NATION, S.C. (AP) — Two of the Carolinas' most prominent American Indian tribes are battling over geography and lucrative gambling turf.

The Cherokee in North Carolina, with two casinos established in the mountains, say their opponents should stay in their own state to the south. The Catawba of South Carolina argue such state boundaries are artificial and shouldn't affect their effort to gain a foothold in the industry.

The Catawba Indian Nation, with a 700-acre (283-hectare) reservation in upstate South Carolina, has been unable to build a high-stakes gambling operation in the state despite a 1993 federal law that Catawba Chief Bill Harris says was supposed to open the door for them to do so. The tribe blames fierce anti-gambling opposition from South Carolina leaders. Instead the Catawba are hoping to revive previously failed efforts to build a casino in North Carolina just 35 miles (56 kilometers) northwest of the Catawba reservation, specifically along Interstate 85 in the Charlotte suburb of Kings Mountain, where they say they have a historical and legal claim to land.

Powerful U.S. senators from both states are backing them, but their efforts may not be enough. A bill they've sponsored in Congress has drawn fierce opposition from lawmakers in North Carolina, where the Cherokee tribe — one

of the state's most prolific campaign donors — already runs two successful casinos in the far western region of the state.

Those operations, the first of which opened in 1997, have transformed the fortunes of the tribe's 16,000-member Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and surrounding Appalachian counties, creating jobs, state-of-the-art government services and payments of about \$12,000 annually to each tribal member.

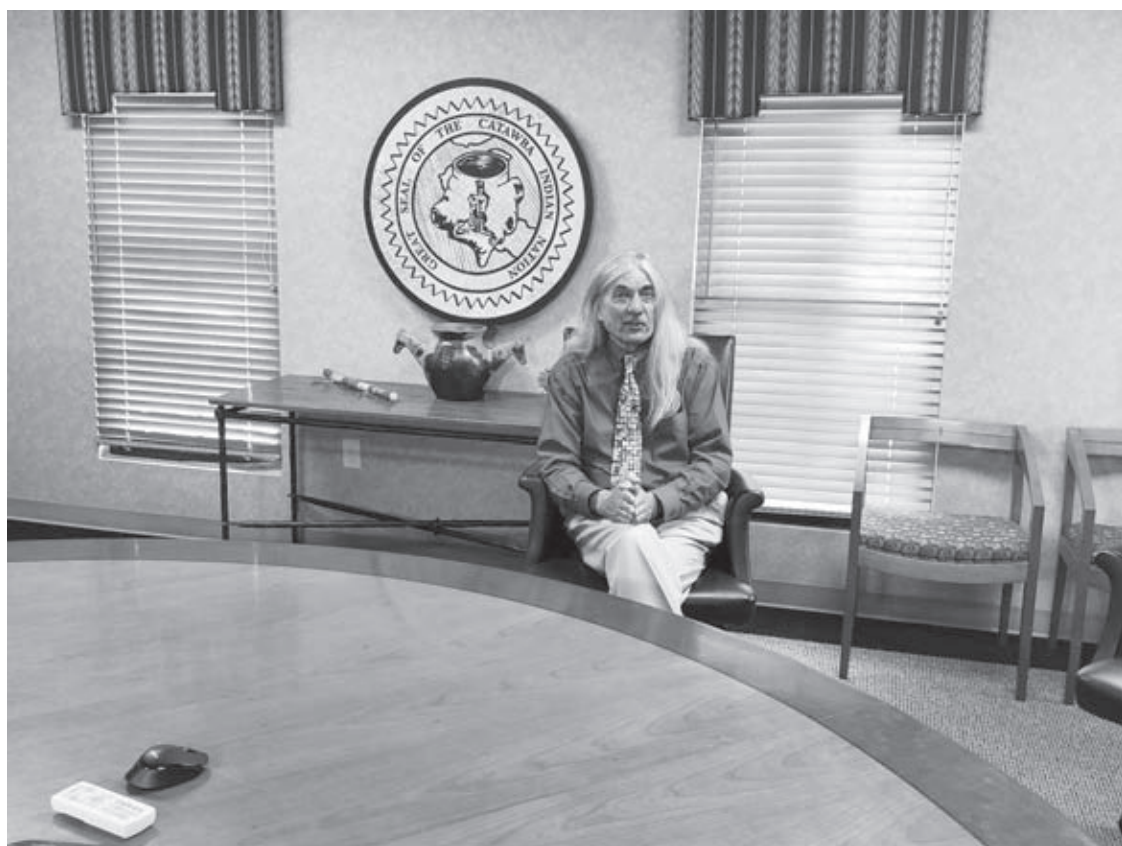
Harris says his tribe — whose federal recognition was restored in 1993 after its removal 40 years earlier — deserves the same prosperity.

A casino, he says, would rescue a reservation population whose 28% poverty rate for families is nearly twice the state average: "The opportunities would be limitless."

Six years ago, the Catawba filed an application with the Interior Department to get permission to build on the Kings Mountain acreage. But then-North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, more than 100 legislators and state House Speaker Thom Tillis — now a U.S. senator and one of the sponsors of the current bill — shot down the idea.

Tillis spokesman Dan Keylin says the senator changed his mind about the tribe's request because local Kings Mountain-area leaders have contacted his office expressing their support.

During a Senate committee hearing on the bill in May, John Tahsuda, of the Interior Department's Indian Affairs division, said it



In an April 26, 2019 photo, Catawba Indian Nation Chief Bill Harris talks about how his South Carolina-based tribe is trying to get permission to build a casino in North Carolina but is getting heavy opposition from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, during an interview at the Catawba's reservation near Rock Hill, S.C.

Associated Press

was "clear that the benefits that Congress intended for the tribe" in a settlement the federal government reached with the Catawba in 1993 "have not been realized." He took no formal stand on the legislation. Graham remarked, "I'm from South Carolina. Nobody, nobody objects to the Catawbans having land in North Carolina and in establishing a gambling operation as long as it's consistent with the law." Some people north of the border feel differently. Gov. Roy Cooper has expressed concerns because the senators' bill appears to exempt the Catawba from having to negotiate with the state over details such as which games could be

offered and whether North Carolina would receive a cut of the revenues. Cherokee Eastern Band Principal Chief Richard Sneed says the senators' bill could have "devastating" economic consequences in his tribe's region, where poverty used to be rampant. A Catawba casino could siphon visitors from South Carolina and the eastern two-thirds of North Carolina who want to play blackjack, roulette and slots — and previously did so at the Cherokee-owned casinos. Besides, the tribe contends, the Catawba have no legal or historical claims to the land where they want to build.

"The historical evidence is

on the side of the Cherokees on this one," Sneed says. He says territorial agreements the tribes reached with the federal government long ago were based in part on information from a 19th century map that shows there was no Catawba-controlled land in North Carolina after the mid-1700s.

Catawba chief Harris says the land in question is well within the tribe's ancient boundaries and also just 8 miles (13 kilometers) from the site in northern South Carolina where the Catawba aided a decisive victory against the British in a key 1780 Revolutionary War battle. The Catawba River and Catawba County also are in North Carolina. □

Rescue ship with 42 migrants defies Italy order to stay out

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — A private sea rescue ship carrying 42 migrants it took aboard off Libya two weeks ago entered Italian waters Wednesday despite an explicit ban from Italy's interior minister, who has threatened to seize the ship operated by a German aid organization and to arrest its captain. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said the captain of the Sea-Watch 3 broke the law both by disobeying direct orders not to cross into Italy's territorial waters and by flouting measures that bar the migrant rescue ships of nonprofit groups from entering Italian jurisdiction.

"The right to defend our borders is sacred," Salvini said.

Italian media played a recording of the ship's captain informing port authorities Wednesday she was heading to Italy "because I cannot guarantee the safety of the people on board anymore." The response from the port was "You are not authorized to enter Italian waters."

Salvini has insisted the ship belonging to German group Sea-Watch and sailing under a Dutch flag should have continued on to Malta, Tunisia or northern



Italian Deputy Premier and Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, attends a RAI state TV program in Rome, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

European ports instead of remaining near Italy. The crew insisted that Italy's Lampedusa island had the safe port nearest to migrants' point of rescue north of Libyan waters.

Hours after Sea-Watch 3 arrived off the coast of Lampedusa on Wednesday, there was no sign the migrants would be allowed to get off the ship in Italy or any other move to end the standoff.

Given the boat's Dutch flag, Italy requested "formal steps" from the Neth-

erlands through its embassy in The Hague, the Italian Foreign Ministry said. Meanwhile, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte met with Salvini and Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi in Rome to discuss the situation. The captain of Sea-Watch 3, Carola Rackete, said in a video posted on Twitter that Italian authorities had boarded the ship to check documentation and the crew's passports. The authorities "are waiting for further instructions from their superiors," she said. "I

really hope they will take the rescues off the ship soon."

In a separate post, she said she knew she risked arrest "but the 42 rescued are exhausted. I need to bring them to safety."

Sea-Watch spokesman Ruben Neugeberegger said the crew had previously requested permission to port in Malta and was turned down. Sea-Watch also asked the European Union's executive commission to intervene and help find a port that will allow

the ship, Neugebauer said. The European Commission had been in touch with "several member states" by midday to identify a port where the migrants could disembark and countries willing to take the passengers in after that, spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud said. She said no decisions were made.

Sea-Watch said that the migrants had become desperate after the European Court of Human Rights on Tuesday rejected their appeal to be allowed to disembark in Italy.

Those on board are among 53 that the group said it rescued June 12 from a rubber boat off Libya in international waters. In the meantime, 11 have been evacuated to Italy for medical reasons. The remaining 42 include a 12 year old and two other children traveling alone. The group's cultural mediator, Haidi Sadik, said many on board have been tortured in Libya. "But even if this was not the case, any person rescued at sea, by law has to be brought to a place of safety. These are people with basic needs and basic rights. A rescue operation is not finished until every single person rescued has both feet on the ground," Sadik said. □

European heat wave sees Germany put speed curbs on autobahn

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Large parts of western and central Europe sweated under blazing temperatures Wednesday, with authorities in one German region imposing temporary speed limits on some stretches of the autobahn as a precaution against heat damage.

Authorities have warned that temperatures could top 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in parts of the continent over the coming days as a plume of dry, hot air moves north from Africa. The transport ministry in Germany's eastern Saxony-Anhalt state said it has imposed speed limits of 100 kph or 120 kph (62 mph or 75 mph) on several short stretches of highway



People cool off in a fountain during a hot summer day, in Pamplona, northern Spain, Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

Associated Press

until further notice. Those stretches usually have no speed limit.

On Tuesday evening, German railway operator Deutsche Bahn called rescue services to Dues-

seldorf Airport station as a precaution because two trains' air conditioning systems weren't working properly, but neither had to be evacuated.

In Paris, authorities banned

older cars from the city for the day as a heat wave aggravates the city's pollution. Regional authorities estimate the measure put into place Wednesday affects nearly 60% of vehicles circulating in the Paris region, including many delivery trucks and older cars with higher emissions than newer models. Violators face fines.

Around France, some schools have been closed because of the high temperatures, which are expected to go up to 39 degrees Celsius (102 Fahrenheit) in the Paris area later this week and bake much of the country, from the Pyrenees in the southwest to the German border in the northeast.

Such temperatures are rare in France, where most homes and many buildings do not have air conditioning. French charities and local officials are providing extra help for the elderly, the homeless and the sick this week, remembering that some 15,000 people, many of them elderly, died in France during a 2003 heat wave.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe cited the heat wave as evidence of climate destabilization and vowed to step up the government's fight against climate change.

About half of Spain's provinces are on alert for high temperatures, which are expected to rise as the weekend approaches. □



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NATO weighs boost to air defenses over Russia missile system

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO is considering beefing up European air and missile defenses and ramping up its war games plans should Russia fail to respect a Cold War-era nuclear missile treaty by August, alliance Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned Wednesday.

The United States gave notice in February of its intention to withdraw from the landmark 1987 pact unless Russia destroyed its new SSC-8 missile. NATO allies believe the system contravenes the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty, which is considered to be a cornerstone of European nuclear security. Speaking after a meeting of defense ministers in Brussels, Stoltenberg said Russia showed no sign of returning to compliance before the U.S. deadline and "NATO is preparing for a world without the INF treaty."

The ministers discussed "potential measures such as our exercises program, as



Acting U.S. Secretary for Defense Mark Esper, left, speaks during a press point with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg prior to a meeting of NATO defense ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. We will also look further at our air and missile defenses and conventional capabilities," he said.

Stoltenberg declined to give details, but underlined that NATO had "no inten-

tion to deploy new land-based nuclear missiles in Europe."

Asked earlier Wednesday if the military alliance might use its nascent missile defense shield to counter the new Russian missiles, Stoltenberg said he wouldn't

divulge "exactly what we will do because we are still focused on how we can get Russia back into compliance."

NATO allies decided in 2010 to develop a ballistic missile defense system to protect Europeans from an attack

launched from outside Europe and North America. At the time, it was meant to counter any threat from North Korea or Iran. Despite Moscow's vehement objections to the system, the alliance always insisted that it could never be turned against Russia.

The INF treaty bans production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500-5,500 kilometers (310-3,400 miles).

The Pentagon has shared information with NATO allies asserting that Russia's ground-fired cruise missile could give Moscow the ability to launch a nuclear strike in Europe with little or no notice. Moscow insists the missile has a range of less than 500 kilometers and counters that the U.S., itself, has been breaching the INF treaty. "These missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. They can reach European cities within minutes. They are hard to detect," Stoltenberg told reporters at NATO headquarters. □

Saudi envoy blasts UN expert's report on Khashoggi killing

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A top Saudi diplomat lashed out Tuesday at an independent U.N. expert's searing report alleging that Saudi Arabia was responsible for the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, saying it was based on "prejudice and pre-fabricated ideas." In what amounted to a face-off at the U.N.'s top human rights body, Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil insisted that special rapporteur Agnes Callamard had failed to follow proper procedures and used flawed sourcing in her 101-page



Agnes Callamard, UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, speaking at the 41th session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Associated Press

report made public last week.

"Accusations have been launched, and fingers have been pointed — (she is) supporting herself on non-credible articles or sources," he told the Human Rights Council, in Arabic through a U.N. interpreter. Callamard, sitting at the council podium to present her report, retorted that her methodology had respected precedent and insisted her report wasn't based on media reports. She also said she hadn't received any responses in writing from Saudi authorities to her report.

The report by Callamard, an independent expert on extrajudicial and arbitrary killings, alleged that Saudi Arabia bears responsibility for The Washington Post columnist's grisly apparent dismemberment by Saudi agents at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul in October. She also wrote that Saudi Arabia, which has put 11 people on trial in non-public proceedings, shouldn't be allowed to mete out justice alone in a case with vast international implications — and called for a "proper authority" to determine if crimes had been committed. □

Australia media demand press freedom law reforms after raids

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australia's three largest media organizations joined forces on Wednesday to demand legal reforms that would prevent journalists from risking imprisonment for doing their jobs. The demands came after unprecedented raids against media organizations by police searching for leaked documents that some say were deeply embarrassing to the government.

News Corp. Australia, Australian Broadcasting Corp. and Nine Entertainment made their demands after raids by federal police on consecutive days earlier this month at ABC's Sydney headquarters and a News Corp. reporter's Canberra home in search of secret government documents.

The rival organizations want journalists to be exempt from national security laws passed since 2012 that "would put them in jail for doing their jobs."

They also want a right to contest warrants such as those executed in Sydney and Canberra. Both the ABC and New Corp. this



In this June 5, 2019, file image made from video, Australia's Federal Police, top, enter the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the national public broadcaster, during a raid on their offices in Sydney, Australia.

week lodged court challenges to both those warrants in a bid to have documents returned.

The organizations have called for greater legal protections for public sector whistleblowers as well as reforms to freedom of information and defamation laws.

ABC Managing Director

David Anderson, News Corp. Australia Executive Chairman Michael Miller and Nine Chief Executive Hugh Marks addressed the National Press Club on Wednesday as part of a campaign to gain public support for reform.

"Clearly, we are at a crossroads. We can be a society that is secret and afraid

to confront sometimes uncomfortable truths or we can protect those who courageously promote transparency, stand up to intimidation and shed light on those truths to the benefit of all citizens," Anderson said.

Miller described the police raids that have united media organizations in their

Associated Press

demand for change as "intimidation, not investigation."

"But there is a deeper problem — the culture of secrecy," Miller said. "Too many people who frame policy, write laws, control information and conduct court hearings have stopped believing that the public's right to know comes first."

Marks said "bad legislation on several fronts and probably overzealous officials ... in the judiciary, in the bureaucracy and our security services have steadily eroded the freedoms under which we, the media, can operate."

"Put simply, it's more risky, it's more expensive to do journalism that makes a real difference in this country than it ever has been before," Marks said.

The demands come a week before Parliament resumes for the first time since the conservative government was elected for a third term on May 18.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has not criticized the police raids, but has said he is open to suggestions for improvements to Australia's laws. □

Opposition leader: Ethiopia, AU join forces in Sudan efforts

HUSSEIN MALLA

SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)

— A leading Sudanese opposition figure said on Wednesday the African Union and Ethiopia will present a new and joint proposal for a solution to the crisis in Sudan, as they renew efforts to bring the ruling generals and protest leaders back to the negotiating table.

In recent weeks, Ethiopia and the AU have been mediating between the military council and the pro-democracy movement demanding civilian rule. Talks collapsed when Sudanese security forces cleared a protest camp in the capital, Khartoum, earlier this month. The deadly clampdown killed at least 128 people across the country, according to protest organizers.



Sadek al-Mahdi, who heads the Umma party, speaks during a news conference at his group headquarters, in Khartoum, Sudan, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Protest leaders, represented by the coalition Forces for Declaration of Freedom

and Change, said over the weekend they had accepted the Ethiopian pro-

posal for a power-sharing agreement.

The military council, how-

Associated Press

ever, refused to agree, saying that the initiative was to pave the way for resuming talks with the FDFC, "not to offer proposals for solutions." It asked Ethiopia to present a joint proposal with the AU, which it said had handed the military a separate transition plan.

The leading opposition figure Sadek al-Mahdi told reporters that Ethiopia and the AU were now planning a joint proposal to be presented later on Wednesday.

A former prime minister, Al-Mahdi's Umma Party is the country's largest political party, and part of the FDFC coalition.

The proposal would tackle the main points behind the current impasse, he said. These include the setup of a temporary legislative body. The FDFC has asked for a majority of seats. □

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Beauty pageant winner accuses ex-Gambia president of rape

By KRISTA LARSON

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — A Gambian beauty pageant winner has accused the country's former dictator Yahya Jammeh of raping her four years ago, the latest allegation of human rights abuses committed by the ex-president now living in exile in Equatorial Guinea.

Fatou "Toufah" Jallow, now 23, made an announcement to journalists Tuesday and said she plans to testify later this year before Gambia's truth and reconciliation commission, which is investigating abuses committed under the Jammeh regime.

The dictator of 22 years is accused of ordering opponents tortured, jailed and killed. The sexual abuse allegations raised by Jallow and others directly implicate him in personally committing violence



In this Sept. 25, 2014, file photo, Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh addresses the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press

against Gambians. Jallow and other young women interviewed by Human Rights Watch say the president was a sexual predator who coerced young women into sexual relationships by promising scholarships and even putting some on the state payroll.

Jammeh is reportedly living

a lavish but reclusive life in exile in Equatorial Guinea, where he is protected from extradition by the dictator in charge of the oil-rich country.

Jallow, who wanted to come forward publicly, said the president began lavishing gifts on her and her family after meeting

her when she was crowned queen of the Miss July 22 Pageant as an 18-year-old back in 2014.

Jammeh took a special interest in her, she said, ordering the utility company to install running water at her mother's home, and having his cousin purchase the family expensive furniture. While initially he expressed interest in funding her charity project, she said that Jammeh later asked for her hand in marriage. After she declined, he told her that as the pageant winner she had to attend an event at his official residence, State House, ahead of the holy month of Ramadan.

Once there, she said she was locked in a room and drugged by the president himself.

"He told me, 'No woman has ever rejected me. And who do you think you are?'" she said. "His face changed, his eyes were so

red, different from the man before. He said, 'No woman rejects me. You think you can get away with it?'" As she tried to leave, Jallow said the president told her: "If you make any move, I will kill you with my own hands."

The president then drugged her, shoved his genitals in her face and raped her before she blacked out, she said. Several days later she told her family she was going to the market to shop, and then fled to neighboring Senegal.

Jammeh later lost the 2016 election to now President Adama Barrow. After initially refusing to accept his defeat, Jammeh succumbed to international pressure, stepped down from office and fled to Equatorial Guinea. Gambia's new administration has estimated that Jammeh and his associates stole up to \$1 billion in funds from the state coffers. □

Japan's Abe wants G-20 to unite on trade, Middle East

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Wednesday to seek a consensus on trade and other contentious issues when he chairs this week's summit of the Group of 20 countries in Osaka.

Abe stressed the importance of global leaders overcoming their differences and joining hands in tackling difficult issues to send a strong message to the rest of the world.

"I hope to lead the summit by patiently finding com-

mon ground in order to achieve concrete results, rather than stressing or focusing on differences of opinion," Abe told a news conference marking the end of the parliamentary session. He said he hopes to send "strong messages" on a wide range of issues. Abe, seeking to demonstrate his leadership as Japan hosts the G-20 summit for the first time, is pushing for agreements on less divisive issues such as handling of plastic waste.

G-20 finance ministers who gathered in Fukuoka

in southern Japan earlier this month avoided using phrases such as "fight protectionism" in a joint statement.

Abe also expressed hope that the U.S. and China will resolve their trade dispute when their leaders meet during and on the sidelines of the summit on Friday and Saturday.

Planned talks between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday are receiving extensive attention and are almost eclipsing the main G-20 conference.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a press conference at Abe's official residence in Tokyo, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Associated Press

"Regarding the U.S.-China trade dispute, I expect the United States and China

will constructively resolve the problem through dialogue," Abe said. □

A grim border drowning underlines peril facing many migrants

By **PETER ORSI**
AMY GUTHRIE
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The man and his 23-month-old daughter lay face down in shallow water along the bank of the Rio Grande, his black shirt hiked up to his chest with the girl tucked inside. Her arm was draped around his neck suggesting she clung to him in her final moments.

The searing photograph of the sad discovery of their bodies on Monday, captured by journalist Julia Le Duc and published by Mexican newspaper La Jornada, highlights the perils faced by mostly Central American migrants fleeing violence and poverty and hoping for asylum in the United States.

According to Le Duc's reporting for La Jornada, Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez, frustrated because the family from El Salvador was unable to present themselves to U.S. authorities and request asylum, swam across the river on Sunday with his daughter, Valeria.

He set her on the U.S. bank of the river and started back for his wife, Tania Vanessa Ávalos, but seeing him move away the girl threw herself into the waters. Martínez returned and was able to grab Valeria, but the current swept them both away.

The account was based on remarks by Ávalos to police at the scene — "amid tears" and "screams" — Le Duc told The Associated Press.

Details of the incident were confirmed Tuesday by a Tamaulipas state government official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, and by Martínez's mother back in El Salvador, Rosa Ramírez, who spoke with her daughter-in-law by phone afterward.

"When the girl jumped in is when he tried to reach her, but when he tried to grab the girl, he went in further ... and he couldn't get out," Ramírez told the AP. "He put her in his shirt, and

I imagine he told himself, 'I've come this far' and decided to go with her."

From the scorching Sonoran Desert to the fast-moving Rio Grande, the

bridge. Tamaulipas immigration and civil defense officials have toured shelters beginning weeks ago to warn against attempting to cross the river, said to be

ing international attention on migration to the U.S.

"Very regrettable that this would happen," Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said

conducted in Matamoros each week, while somewhere in the neighborhood of 800-1,700 names were on a waiting list.

It's not clear what happened to the family at the U.S. Consulate, but later in the day they made the decision to cross. The Tamaulipas official said the father and daughter set off from a small park that abuts the river. Civil defense officials arrived at the scene at 7 p.m. Sunday and later took the wife to the shelter.

"I was drawn to the girl's arm on her father," Le Duc said as she described arriving at the scene. "It was something that moved me in the extreme because it reflects that until her last breath, she was joined to him not only by the shirt but also in that embrace in which they passed together into death."

"It's a horrifying image," Maureen Meyer, a specialist on immigration at the Washington Office on Latin America, which advocates for human rights in the region, said of the photograph.

"And I think it speaks so clearly to the real risks of these U.S. programs that are either returning people back to Mexico seeking asylum or in this case limiting how many people can enter the U.S. every day."

The United States has also been expanding its program under which asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their claims are processed in U.S. courts, a wait that could last many months or even years.

This week Nuevo Laredo in Tamaulipas, the same state where Matamoros is located, said it will become the latest city to receive returnees as soon as Friday.

Many migrant shelters are overflowing on the Mexican side, and cartels hold sway over much of Tamaulipas and have been known to kidnap and kill migrants. Meanwhile, Mexico is stepping up its own crackdown on immigration in response to U.S. pressure, with much of the focus on slowing the flow in the country's south. □



The bodies of Salvadoran migrant Oscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his nearly 2-year-old daughter Valeria lie on the bank of the Rio Grande in Matamoros, Mexico.

Associated Press

2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border has long been an at times deadly crossing between ports of entry.

A total of 283 migrant deaths were recorded last year; the toll so far this year has not been released.

In recent weeks alone, two babies, a toddler and a woman were found dead in the sweltering heat. Three children and an adult from Honduras died in April after their raft capsized on the Rio Grande, and a 6-year-old from India was found dead earlier this month in Arizona, where temperatures routinely soar well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The search for Martínez and his daughter was suspended Sunday due to darkness, and their bodies were discovered the next morning near Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville, Texas, several hundred yards (meters) from where they had tried to cross and just a half-mile (1 kilometer) from an international

swollen with water released from dams for irrigation. On the surface, the Rio Grande appears placid, but strong currents run beneath.

Ramírez said her son and his family left El Salvador on April 3 and spent about two months at a shelter in Tapachula, near Mexico's border with Guatemala.

"I begged them not to go, but he wanted to scrape together money to build a home," Ramírez said. "They hoped to be there a few years and save up for the house."

El Salvador's foreign ministry said it was working to assist the family, including Ávalos, who was at a border migrant shelter following the drownings. The bodies were expected to be flown to El Salvador on Thursday.

The photo recalls the 2015 image of a 3-year-old Syrian boy who drowned in the Mediterranean near Turkey, though it remains to be seen whether it may have the same impact in focus-

Tuesday in response to a question about the photograph. "We have always denounced that as there is more rejection in the United States, there are people who lose their lives in the desert or crossing" the river. There was no immediate comment from the White House.

U.S. "metering" policy has dramatically reduced the number of migrants who are allowed to request asylum, down from dozens per day previously to sometimes just a handful at some ports of entry.

The Tamaulipas government official said the family arrived in Matamoros early Sunday and went to the U.S. Consulate to try to get a date to request asylum. The mother is 21 years old and the father was 25, he added.

But waits are long there as elsewhere along the border.

Last week, a shelter director said only about 40 to 45 asylum interviews were being

LOCAL



Hip hip hooray for newspapers

By Melissa Martin Ph.D

OHIO — “For the times they are a-changing!” sang Bob Dylan. And the digital age has changed the way information is eaten, swallowed, and digested. We can’t stop progress, but we must maintain the salience of our newspapers (in print or digital). Why? Newspapers, whether country, state, or local serve significant roles in societies and cultures. And residents like hometown news.

“Print newspapers are suffering declining readership and revenue in most of the developed world, such as in Europe and Australia, though in general the problems are not as severe as in the United States, particularly when it comes to revenue. But in much of the developing world, print newspapers are thriving, in some cases dramatically,” according to a 2011 report from the Pew Research Center with information gleaned from the World Association of Newspapers 2010 and 2009 World Press Trends reports.

In Africa circulation in 2009 rose across the continent by 5 percent. As India’s literacy rate grows, so does its newspaper circulation. Countries with evolving democracies show newspaper growth (Hungary, Russia, Kosovo, Russia, and Afghanistan). Asia is home to 67 of the 100 largest newspapers in the world. www.journalism.org.

“When local newspapers shut their doors, communities lose out. People and their stories can’t find coverage.

Politicos take liberties when it’s nobody’s job to hold them accountable. What the public doesn’t know winds up hurting them. The city feels poorer, politically and culturally,” penned

Kriston Capps in a 2018 internet article at City Lab.

As advertising revenue has been gobbled up by the Internet giants Facebook and Google, newspaper profits have plunged. The World Wide Web is here to stay, but humans around the globe need to stand up for newspapers.

The School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has collected, researched and analyzed data from 2004 to 2016 on more than 9,500 local newspapers in the United States. The comprehensive study of newspaper coverage found that 516 rural newspapers closed or merged from 2004 to 2018.

In metropolitan areas, 1,294 newspapers were shuttered. A national total of 1,810 papers that ceased publication. Read the 88-page report “The Rise of a New Media Baron and the Emerging Threat of News Deserts” at www.usnews-deserts.com.

I recently attended the annual conference for members of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, a 501(c)6 nonprofit organization in the USA.

The NSNC promotes professionalism and camaraderie among columnists and other writers of the serial essay, including bloggers. And advocates for columnists and free-press issues.

Don’t close the casket and bury local newspapers! Ye naysayers of doom and gloom—readers want, need, and love their hometown newspapers. I urge readers of their local newspaper (in print or digital) to write a letter of support to the newspaper staff.

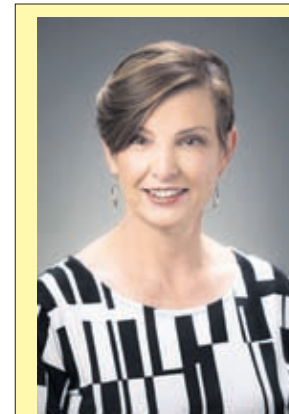
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calize your opinion by writing a Letter to the Editor. Take some time out of your hurry-scurry day and communicate with your newspaper people. They need to know you care.

What else can you do? Pay for a subscription to your local newspaper (print or digital).

The staff and their families need to eat at least once a day.

Use newspaper content as a teaching tool in schools. Communities need strong



Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in US

newspaper-in-education programs.

cal newspapers, whether in print or digital.

Local businesses need to continue spending their advertising dollars with lo-

“He who is without a newspaper is cut off from his species.”— P. T. Barnum



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Diversifying Aruba's Tourism Industry Through Sustainability

Including Culture, Creativity and Innovation for the Future



Maastricht – It has not been a secret that Aruba is experiencing tough situations related to the migratory crisis of its neighbor country, Venezuela. The CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), Ms. Ronella Tjin Asjoe – Croes stated that the Venezuelan market, which alongside the North American market (USA and Canada) were the major touristic markets visiting the island, is currently considered to have a dormant status. This shift was thankfully consolidated with the increasing demand of the North American market, which allowed Aruba to maintain and continuously grow as one of the leading touristic destinations in the Caribbean. However, besides these developments, the discourse has been very strong within the Aruban community on what the tourism industry will mean for the island as we consider the demotivating evolvement of the oil refinery industry, and the increasing attention to the environment and the Aruban natural heritage. The island is torn on the issue, not knowing if tourism should expand, be limited or maintained as is.

The government of Aruba and ATA have both expressed that one way we could diversify within the tourism industry is to venture into other niche markets, such as cultural tourism, medical tourism, adventure tourism, eco-tourism etc. In the report "Cu Mira pa Futuro" in 2017 (With an Outlook to the Future) the ATA shared their strategic objectives as desiring a balanced development, increasing the economic value of tourism, developing a sense of place, developing an innovation mindset and increasing community engagement. From an incubator session between the University of Aruba (UA) and the Educacion Profesional Intermedio (EPI) in 2017, key areas of concern for Aruba as a destination include, the lack of innovation, other developments, the business climate, safety and the lack of culture. Also, from town hall sessions in San Nicolas in 2017, it seems that 87% of the community does not want further development of hotels on the island, 98% of the community does not want more all-inclusive hotels on the island, and 92% of the community does not want further time share development of the island. However, 73% would like to see the development of boutique hotels on the island. Considering the exit survey ATA executes, only 1% of the tourists spend on local arts and culture, which is can be considered low, or just an opportunity to expand and attract a market of people who want a cultural experience rather than laying on the beach their entire stay.

Furthermore, between the Aruban community together with all relevant stakeholders, the goal will be to invest more in education, innovation and entrepreneurship; more efficient infrastructure planning; more protection of the Aruban natural heritage; protecting Aruba's main assets (beaches, hospitality and safety); creating a sustainable mindset; more collaboration on policy; increased cultural curiosity and creative confidence; and more transparency and social dialogue. Moving into 2020, the "Cu Mira pa Futuro" report, highlights the focus on sustainable tourism. For sure a topic that has been discussed in the community and recently by the Raiz Political Party, which is related to the carrying capacity concern, or over tourism dilemma. But,

what exactly is sustainable tourism? Is sustainable tourism even achievable or realistic? Personally, I think many people confuse sustainability with being only environmentally friendly. Environmentally friendly development can be sustainable; however, sustainable development does not always mean it is environmentally friendly. Sustainability is broader than just the environment and can be explained through the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by the United Nations, targeting 17 goals by 2030 for a better and more inclusive world.

The Tourism Industry and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

According to the "Tourism and the sustainable Development Goals Journey to 2030" report by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2019) "in the context of the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the International Year supports a change in policies, business practices and consumer behavior towards a more sustainable tourism sector that can contribute to the SDGs in five key areas, namely: (1) Sustainable economic growth, (2) Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction, (3) Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change, (4) Cultural values, diversity and heritage, and (5) Mutual understanding, peace and security". The report defines sustainable tourism as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the

environment and host communities" (p. 15). This means that sustainable tourism has both a socio-economic and environmental ideology. Threats and challenges in tourism will require comprehensive and rigorous public policy at a national level, while recognizing tourism's value in advancing and even accelerating implementation and achievement of the SDGs. In the end, the sustainability specifically of the tourism private sector depends to a large extent on "a supportive policy framework, as well as financing, that would enable and incentivize small and large companies to develop business models that foster inclusive green growth. The tourism private sector thus requires integrated policy actions and strong partnerships that support and guide businesses in those areas where voluntary action is not sufficient to achieve the SDGs" (p. 39).

Local examples of Cultural Tourism

The tourism and cultural sectors have emerged worldwide as leaders in the revitalization of redundant buildings and open spaces for contemporary purposes, providing opportunities for sustaining traditional and contemporary cultural values (UNWTO, 2019). One interesting example of such activities include the entertainment and music industries, which have gained much attention on the island, through the known festivals such as the Aruba Electric Festival, Aruba Summer Music festival, Soul Beach Music Festival, the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, which was recently in the news for being cancelled due to not meeting targeted touristic attendance.

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Diversifying Aruba's Tourism Industry Through Sustainability

Continued from Page 14

Next to these prestigious festival, during July 17th till 27th 2019, Aruba will host the 'Aruba Symphony Festival & Academy' where more than 100 musicians from all over the world come to participate, contributing to the cultural and touristic development of Aruba.

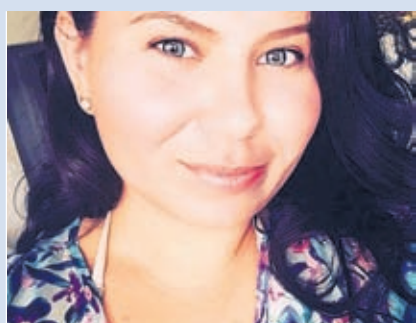
According to other news sources, the founder and musical director of the festival expressed that what distinguishes this festival to the others is the diverse multicultural aspect of not only the musicians, but also the music performed, which will include folk music, Latin American music, and also more classical music of for example, Beethoven. Accessibility will not be an issue, seeing that only the first and last presentation will have an entrance fee. To make sure the entire community of Aruba can enjoy the festival, the presentations between July 18th and 26th 2019 will be completely free and will be



hosted on popular local venues, such as Cas di Cultura, Paseo Herencia, Casibari, Ritz Carlton Hotel and the Free Winds. So, if you are on the

island during these days, make sure to experience a local symphonic experience.

There is no question that the tourism industry of Aruba will need to include creativity, culture and innovation to accelerate more sustainable tourism on the island. How this will look like, we don't know. Will our tourists continue to experience Aruba as they know it to be? We don't know either. But, what we can conclude is that the island will not escape tourism as its primary income for the years to come. Sustainability should be our priority, and effective public policy will be instrumental for creating proper development and accountability of all stakeholders involved. It will be a matter of time to see either positive or negative development impacts. Aruba, its community and its visitors deserve sustainability, not only for the present, but for the future. □



Biography – Currently, Thaïs Franken is a 23-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.



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Tower One: 80% Closed Sale

Enthusiastic sales Manager Marinelda Cartaya has no problems explaining why this is called condominiums with a plus. "All condominiums face the clear blue ocean with the white-sandy beaches, even the ones on the ground floor. Tower 1 is already completed and space wise you cannot go wrong: the 2 -bedroom condominiums are 1024 sq. ft. and the 3-bedroom units 1670 sq. ft. Storage is included so just leave your chairs and bicycles locked up, even when you rent out your units, rooms are offered in lock offs meaning your personal belongings stay safe in one locked bedroom while the rest of the place can be rented out." Tower 1 only has eight 3-bedroom condos still available, more than 80 % of the sale is closed already.

Tower Two: over 50 % Sold

Tower two is under construction and sales has taken off very well here. More than 50 % is sold including the penthouse, 3-bedroom condos, 2-bedroom condos and one bedroom condos. From the studios only two are left and from the 1-bedrooms only four are left.



Harbour House is another project of this group that is open for sales, offering 94 condominiums, just in front of Renaissance Marina. Studio's and 2-3 bedrooms, a 360 degrees view gym and Jacuzzi on top for people that prefer the vibe of downtown living with amazing ocean views. Located in the former Marazul building. For more information check: [www. Harbourhousearuba.com](http://www.Harbourhousearuba.com)



Construction Flourish

The good thing about Azure is that the end result can already be shown as Tower 1 is ready, but the progress of Tower 2 also gives significant satisfaction. "The divisions of the different condos are done, the floors are tiled and the tower is being painted. Air-conditioning is installed and the pool is close to finished", Marinelda explains.

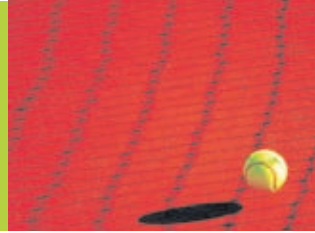
Services

"The Club House is finished now and I can tell you honestly that the amenities we have here are unique. They are different from the other condominiums because we have a separate building where we offer a nice lobby, a restaurant bar, the owners club with a pool table, and where you can play chess or any kind of game and an outside area with BBQ/grills so you can bring your family and friends along", says Marinelda. "It creates that family, intimate, homey feeling. By the way we share amenities with Blue Residences where they have a playground for kids as well as a beach tennis field." Even for breakfast, lunch and dinner one of the best restaurants on the island is right on the premises: Table Kitchen Table by White and opened later this year will be the cafe/bar at Azure's lobby. At Azure Beach Residences you get in touch with the locals when you do your groceries and make this your home, but at the same time you have the luxury of a resort.

"Important to mention is that we are energy efficient as all units have double glass, we use a well reuse "grey" waters for watering the garden and will soon install solar panels for lightning of the common areas. "We aim for an eco-friendly sustainable development" says Marinelda. In her opinion potential buyers want to feel trust and that is exactly what Azure offers.

For more information you can visit the website <http://www.azure-aruba.com>. The sales office is open every week day from 9 AM -5 PM, Saturdays 10 AM - 1 PM. □

SPORTS



IOC strips Olympic status from troubled boxing body AIBA

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**
AP Sports Writer
LAUSANNE, Switzerland

(AP) — Troubled boxing body AIBA was stripped of Olympic status on Wednesday and the IOC will now organize qualifying and final tournaments for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

AIBA had created “very serious reputational, legal and financial risks” for the IOC and its stakeholders, not just the American ones, Olympic inquiry panel chairman Nenad Lalovic said.

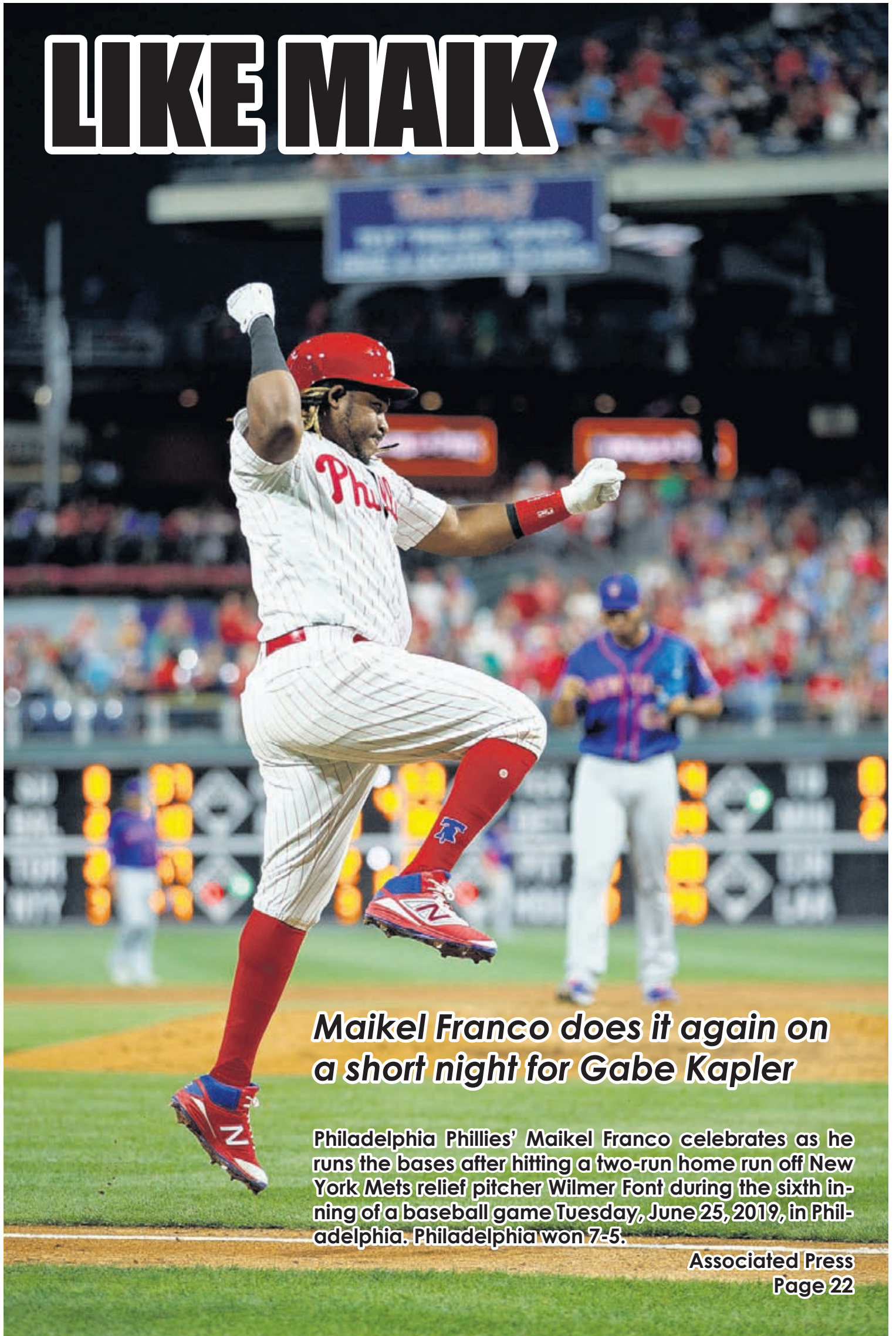
The election of AIBA president Gafur Rakhimov, who is under United States federal sanctions for suspected links to eastern European organized crime, prodded the IOC last year to investigate boxing’s governance, debts and integrity of Olympic bouts.

International Olympic Committee members voted Wednesday to endorse the executive board’s recommendation last month to suspend AIBA’s Olympic status.

Lausanne-based AIBA has said it is near bankruptcy with debts of about \$17 million.

It is cut off from income from Tokyo revenues, and the 2019 world championships for men and women in Russia are now devalued without the lure of being Olympic qualifiers.

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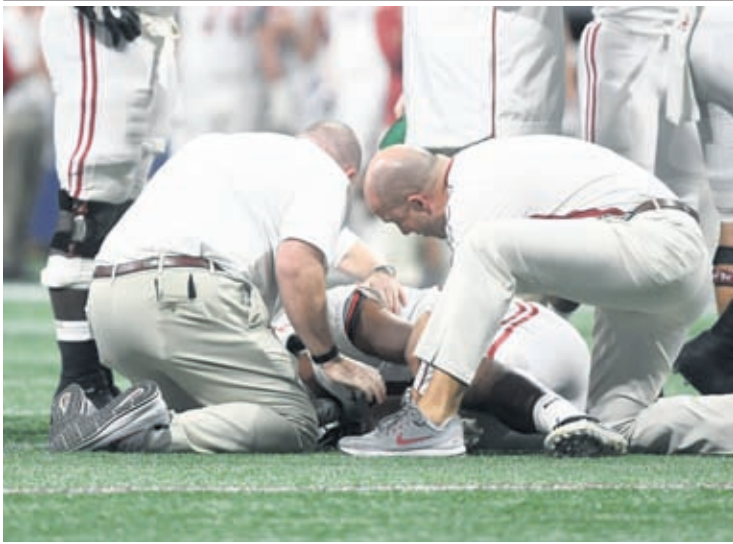


Maikel Franco does it again on a short night for Gabe Kapler

Philadelphia Phillies' Maikel Franco celebrates as he runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run off New York Mets relief pitcher Wilmer Font during the sixth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won 7-5.

Associated Press
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Continued on Page 23



In this Dec. 1, 2018, file photo, Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (13) is helped by medical staff during the second half of the Southeastern Conference championship NCAA college football game against Georgia, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Athletic trainers: Coaches still influence health decisions

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

More than one-third of college athletic trainers say coaches influence the hiring and firing of their schools' sports-medicine staffs, a finding that counters an NCAA-recommended protocol urging medical staff to make decisions about athlete health independent of coaches and administrators.

Among the 1,796 athletic trainers who answered a recent survey, more than 48 percent said their school was not following the NCAA-directed guidance. Nearly one in five respondents said a coach had played an athlete who had been deemed medically ineligible to participate.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association sent survey questions to more than 9,200 athletic trainers who work in all divisions of NCAA, NAIA and two-year schools in an attempt to generate baseline data about how institutions are following NCAA guidelines. About 775 of the 1,796 respondents said they worked in Division I.

The crux of the guidelines call for coaches and administrators to be left out of the decision-making process when it comes to an athlete's health.

But those who answered the survey painted a picture that shows those guidelines are far from being met — and portrayed coaches as still having an

influence on who runs the programs' medical staffs.

"When a coach comes to an institution and maybe gets rid of, fires, or replaces a sports medicine staff in place that's doing quality work, is that right thing to do?" said Kansas director of sports medicine Murphy Grant, who chaired the committee that conducted the survey. "The institution's role is to take care of the student-athlete. We want to look at the influence of why those things occur."

Nearly three in five of 537 athletic trainers who answered questions about whether they received pressure from non-medical personnel about medical decisions said they did. Of those, 28.8 percent said they received pressure at least twice a month and 2.56 percent said they received pressure daily.

Other findings:

—Nearly three in 10 said the autonomy of medical staff differed depending on sport.

—Just short of half the athletic trainers said there was no formal document describing their school's model regarding independence of the medical staff. —More than 76 percent of respondents said they feel they have unchallengeable authority to determine medical management of athletes.

"It's concerning that 24 percent feel they do not," Grant said. □



United States' Megan Rapinoe, front, celebrates at the end of the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Spain and US at the Stade Auguste-Delaune in Reims, France, Monday, June 24, 2019. U.S. beat Spain 2-1.

Associated Press

Trump calls out Rapinoe for comments about White House visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump called out U.S. women's national team co-captain Megan Rapinoe after a months-old video was posted on social media in which she used profanity when she said she wasn't going to the White House if the team wins the Women's World Cup. "Megan should never disrespect our Country, the White House, or our Flag, especially since so much has been done for her & the team," Trump tweeted

Wednesday. The president also tweeted that he will invite the U.S. team "win or lose."

Rapinoe's comments came during an interview for a magazine in January in which she was asked if she was excited by the prospect of going to the White House. In a video of an interview excerpt posted Tuesday, she can be seen using a profanity when she says she's not going.

"We're not gonna be in-

vited," she added. The U.S. team, the defending World Cup champion, plays host France in a quarterfinal match on Friday.

Trump's tweets came two days after an interview with The Hill in which he said it wasn't appropriate for Rapinoe to protest during the national anthem.

Rapinoe started kneeling during the anthem in 2016 to show solidarity with former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who did it before NFL games to protest social and racial injustice. But the United States Soccer Federation then adopted a policy that requires players to stand.

Now she stands, but she has been criticized for not singing and putting her hand over her heart like other players.

Rapinoe, who is gay, has frequently spoken out about politics and has criticized the Trump administration and its policies in the past.

Trump has used Twitter to criticize athletes who disagree with him, including Kaepernick and LeBron James.

Teammate Ali Krieger tweeted in support of Rapinoe. Media access to players is tightly controlled at the World Cup and the players were not available for comment. □

Kerber sets up Eastbourne clash with Halep

EASTBOURNE, England (AP) — Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber will meet Simona Halep in the quarterfinals at Eastbourne after they won their third-round matches Wednesday. Seeded fourth, Kerber beat Sweden's Rebecca Peterson 7-6 (4), 6-0 and now has a 5-1 record on grass this season ahead of next week's Wimbledon. The 31-year-old German reached the Eastbourne final in 2012 and 2014, losing both times.

Second-seeded Karolina Pliskova hit 24 winners in a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Elise Mertens. That set up a quarterfinal against Ekaterina Alexandrova, who progressed when her opponent Jelena Ostapenko retired with a hip injury at 3-6, 1-2 down. □



Romania's Simona Halep in action against Slovenia's Polona Hercog during their Women's Singles match on day four of the Nature Valley International at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, England, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Associated Press



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Analysis: For Durant and Leonard, the move is to stay put

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Toronto's Kawhi Leonard and Golden State's Kevin Durant are both very difficult to figure out. They seem to enjoy giving cryptic answers, a minimum of clues, and clearly relish having enigmatic status. It makes free agency tough to forecast.

Luckily for Toronto and Golden State, the math should be very simple. Leonard and Durant are the biggest dominoes that will fall sometime after the free-agent window opens Sunday evening — unless, of course, neither ends up falling elsewhere and decide to stay put for now. And that is what the math says both of them would be wisest to do.

Durant will be offered a \$221 million, five-year contract from Golden State. That's one year and \$57 million more than any other team can offer. Provided that he won't be playing next year anyway because of his ruptured Achilles and that there's no guarantee that the after-surgery version of Durant will remain in the best-player-on-the-planet conversation, it would be less than prudent to leave that much money on the table.

"He's been everything to us," Warriors general manager Bob Myers said earlier this month.

With Leonard, it's all a bit more complex.

The NBA champion Raptors could offer him anything from \$32 million for one year to \$190 million for five



In this Monday, June 10, 2019 file photo, Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) walks off the court after sustaining an injury as he is accompanied by Toronto Raptors center Serge Ibaka (9) and Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) and guard Kyle Lowry (7) during first-half basketball action in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto.

years, and the reality is that Leonard probably wants something in between. In the summer of 2021, after Leonard completes his 10th year in the league, he goes from being able to command 30% of a salary cap to 35% of a salary cap.

That 5% is going to be a lot of money. That's why, for Leonard, the smarter play in terms of finances is to sign a shorter deal this summer — two years, \$68 million or so, maybe with a third year at his option — and cash in

for all he will have coming two years from now.

"He's a confident human being," Raptors President Masai Ujiri said. "He's an unbelievable person. He is his own person. ... I think we've built a trust there."

Of course, all that is the money aspect of things. Leonard has already pocketed about \$85 million in on-court earnings and the big money is really going to start rolling in now. Durant is up to around \$190 million on the court, with probably

just as much off the court. They're both set for life, so money won't be the sole driving force in their respective decisions.

The basketball stuff still matters. No matter how much Durant and Leonard have in the bank, they cannot buy championship rings. This is where the ambiguity starts to kick in, although there shouldn't be much. Even with the Los Angeles Lakers about to get Anthony Davis in a trade, even with the Brooklyn Nets quite

possibly about to land Kyrie Irving in free agency, it's fairly clear that the Raptors and Warriors — this past season's NBA finalists — will go into next season with the most realistic championship aspirations.

The Warriors won't have Durant because of his Achilles injury. They will still have Stephen Curry and, probably, Klay Thompson — provided he re-signs, as is expected. They will still have Steve Kerr calling the shots. They will have deep-pocketed, free-spending owners who won't want the team's first season in the new Chase Center to be, by Warriors' standards, a step backwards after five consecutive NBA Finals appearances.

The Raptors have a chance to go back-to-back and even though the Eastern Conference is deeper now than it has been in recent years — Milwaukee won 60 games this past season, Philadelphia should be strong again, Boston and Indiana have some work to do but could find themselves right back in the mix — there's an argument to be made that Leonard's best path to a third title ring would lead him to stay in Toronto.

For Durant and Leonard, all the talk about New York and Brooklyn and Los Angeles should be just that — talk.

The simplest, and right, move for both is this: Run it back. Stay put. Be the dominoes that don't fall, and let the rest of the league react to that. □

Associated Press

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Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

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Federer seeded No. 2, Nadal No. 3 at Wimbledon; Serena 11th

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Eight-time champion Roger Federer was seeded No. 2 for Wimbledon, one spot ahead of Rafael Nadal, reversing their positions in the ATP rankings and creating a debate about whether the All England Club's seeding system should be changed.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic, the defending champion, was seeded No. 1 on Wednesday at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, where recent results on the surface are used to help determine seedings. The other majors do not do that. Nadal told a Spanish TV station that he doesn't think it makes sense that Wimbledon is the only tournament that uses its own seeding system. Former U.S. Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe and former player and coach Brad Gilbert tweeted that they thought Nadal should have been seeded No. 2.



In this June 7, 2019, file photo, Spain's Rafael Nadal grimaces after scoring against Switzerland's Roger Federer during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

The ATP's top 32 men are seeded at Wimbledon, but the order is based on a formula that gives players additional credit for ranking points earned at tournaments played on grass over the preceding two years. That allowed Federer, who won his 10th title at Halle,

Nadal is coming off his record 12th title at the French Open, which is played on clay, and he did not enter any sort of tuneup event on grass this year. He rarely does. While Nadal did reach the Wimbledon final in five consecutive appearances in the tournament

from 2006-11, he had not been so successful of late until a run to the semifinals last year. From 2012-17, Nadal never made it past the fourth round at the All England Club, including one exit in the first round and a pair in the second. There were other examples

of shifts from rankings to seedings. Last year's runner-up, Kevin Anderson, was seeded No. 4, even though he is ranked only No. 8 this week; 2018 semi-finalist John Isner is seeded No. 9, ranked No. 12; 2017 runner-up Marin Cilic is seeded No. 13, ranked No. 18. This year's women's seedings at the All England Club strictly follow the WTA rankings, so French Open champion Ash Barty is at No. 1.

Naomi Osaka is No. 2, followed by Karolina Pliskova. Seven-time Wimbledon champion Serena Williams is seeded 11th, the same place she holds in this week's rankings. A year ago, early in her return to the tour after having a baby, Williams was ranked just 183rd but seeded 25th. She wound up reaching the final before losing to champion Angelique Kerber. The draw is Friday; play begins Monday. □

Yankees hit 4 homers to extend streak, beat Blue Jays 4-3

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — DJ LeMahieu and Aaron Judge hit back-to-back homers to begin the bottom of the first inning, giving the Yankees a major league-record 28 straight games with a long ball, and New York held off the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 Tuesday night.

Gleyber Torres and Edwin Encarnación each poked a solo shot over the short right field porch for the Yankees, who shook off another injury to Giancarlo Stanton and won for the 10th time in 11 games. The AL East leaders are 8-1 on a 10-game homestand that wraps up Wednesday.

Aroldis Chapman allowed a run in the ninth before retiring Freddy Galvis on an easy grounder with two aboard for his 23rd save in 25 tries.

Stanton exited in the fourth with a bruised right knee and was scheduled for an MRI. He got tangled up with Toronto pitcher Clayton Richard (0-4) in the first while getting thrown out on a headfirst slide into third base.

Yankees rookie Nestor Cortes Jr. (3-0) pitched 4 1/3 solid innings in relief of opener Chad Green.

RED SOX 6, WHITE SOX 3

BOSTON (AP) — Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer and David Price struck out nine, leading the Red Sox to the victory.

The start of the game was delayed 24 minutes because of rain, which continued to fall — heavily at times — through the first five innings. The slick conditions may have contributed to a frightening moment in the fifth inning when Chicago shortstop Tim Anderson sprained his right ankle on a fielding play. Anderson was carried off the field on the shoulders of manager Rick Renteria and a trainer. Price (5-2) worked through the conditions for six innings, permitting three runs and eight hits. Brandon Workman pitched the ninth for his third save.

José Ruiz (0-1) took the loss after allowing Bogaerts' two-run shot in the fifth, breaking a 3-all tie.

PADRES 8, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Manny Machado marked his return to Camden Yards with a performance reminiscent of his time with the Orioles,

deep for the Padres.

Rookie Logan Allen (2-0) allowed two runs and eight hits over six innings.

Richie Martin homered and Hanser Alberto matched

pitched the eighth and stumbled into a win, and Ian Kennedy worked the ninth for his 10th save.

Tyler Naquin hit a two-run homer and Carlos Santa-

ninth inning for Detroit.

Jordan Zimmermann (0-5) allowed three runs in five innings. Detroit has lost five straight and nine of 10.

The Rangers were without Asdrúbal Cabrera, who was starting a three-game suspension for hitting an umpire with equipment.

ASTROS 5, PIRATES 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Yuli Gurriel and Alex Bregman homered to back up a solid start by Gerrit Cole in his first meeting against his former team, and Houston beat Pittsburgh. Cole (7-5) yielded seven hits and one run in six innings against the team which drafted him first overall in 2011 and where he spent five seasons before a trade to Houston before last season. Cole struck out three and walked two as he won his third straight decision. Bregman got things going in the fourth with a double off Trevor Williams before Gurriel launched a fastball into the seats in left field with two outs in the inning to make it 2-0.

An RBI single by Melky Cabrera got the Pirates within 1 in the sixth before Bregman opened the bottom of the inning with his 22nd home run to make it 3-1.

Williams (2-2) allowed eight hits and four runs in 6 2/3 innings.

TWINS 9, RAYS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Eddie Rosario had four hits, Wilkins Astudillo added three hits and Minnesota extended Blake Snell's troubles. Jonathan Schoop and C.J. Cron hit solo homers for Minnesota, which got to Snell (4-7) for seven runs and 11 hits in just 3 1/3 innings.

Kyle Gibson (8-4) allowed four runs and seven hits in seven innings as the Twins won for the third time in four games.

The Twins scored three runs in each of the third and fourth innings to chase Snell, with Rosario tallying an RBI single in each.

Snell has won once in his last nine starts. In five starts in June, the the reigning American League Cy Young winner has a 12.11 ERA and has given up six or more runs three times. □



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge watches his solo home run during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in New York. It was Judge's first home run since returning from a stint on the injured list.

Associated Press

hitting a long homer and driving in two runs to lead San Diego.

Machado played seven years with the Orioles before being traded last July, months before becoming a free agent. The third baseman signed a 10-year, \$300 million contract with the Padres in February.

Machado received a standing ovation from many in the crowd of 21,644 before striking out in the first inning. In the third, however, he hit a shot off Jimmy Yacabonis (1-2) that traveled an estimated 455 feet and added a run-scoring single in the fourth.

Manuel Margot homered and drove in three runs, and Fernando Tatis Jr. and Francisco Mejia also went

his career high with four hits for the Orioles, who lost for the 12th time in 13 games.

ROYALS 8, INDIANS 6

CLEVELAND (AP) — Hunter Dozier's grand slam capped Kansas City's stunning five-run rally in the ninth inning off Cleveland closer Brad Hand.

Hand (4-3) was a perfect 22 for 22 in save chances. But the left-hander did not record an out against the Royals, who entered the ninth down 6-3 before storming back.

Nicky Lopez had an RBI infield single before Kansas City loaded the bases and Dozier connected on Hand's first pitch for his first career grand slam and 13th homer.

Kevin McCarthy (2-1)

na, Roberto Perez and Mike Freeman had solo shots for the Indians.

RANGERS 5, TIGERS 3

DETROIT (AP) — Jesse Chavez pitched into the seventh inning in his longest outing in over two years, and Texas beat Detroit. Detroit has lost 18 of its last 20 home games, and that does not include a game last month that was suspended with the Tigers trailing.

Chavez (3-2) allowed an unearned run and five hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out seven with no walks. It was his longest outing since he went seven innings on June 16, 2017.

Ronald Guzman homered for Texas, and Ronny Rodriguez went deep in the

Franco hits go-ahead homer, Kapler tossed in Phillies win

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Maikel Franco hit a go-ahead two-run homer for the second straight game, powering the Phillies to the victory.

Brad Miller, Scott Kingery and Rhys Hoskins also connected as Philadelphia earned its second straight win since losing seven in a row.

Franco hit a shot to right off Wilmer Font (1-2) for his 18th homer, lifting the Phillies to a 6-5 lead in the sixth inning. Miller made it back-to-back shots when he went deep for a pinch-hit homer.

Philadelphia right-hander Jake Arrieta (7-6) permitted five runs and nine hits in six innings. Héctor Neris got four outs for his 16th save.

Jeff McNeil had four hits for New York. Amed Rosario and Dominic Smith homered.

NATIONALS 6, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP) — Max Scherzer struck out 10 in eight innings and won his fifth straight start to lead Washington.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner also had two hits and scored twice.

Scherzer (7-5) is 5-0 with a 0.92 ERA over his last seven starts and has fanned exactly 10 in three straight games. He allowed five hits and one run while throwing 71 of 94 pitches for strikes.

Trea Turner hit a three-run homer and Juan Soto knocked in two runs for the Nationals, who have won six of eight.

Miami had its four-game winning streak end, and manager Don Mattingly and shortstop Miguel Rojas were ejected in the eighth by plate umpire Mike Estabrook for arguing. Rojas struck out earlier in the inning.

Trevor Richards (3-8) allowed a season-high six runs in five innings.

DODGERS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2

PHOENIX (AP) — Enrique Hernandez hit his sixth career leadoff home run and Justin Turner added a solo shot to power Los Angeles. Hernandez hit a 0-2 pitch out to left off Robbie Ray (5-5) to open the game



Philadelphia Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto, left, tags out New York Mets' Jeff McNeil at home plate on a ball hit by Pete Alonso during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in Philadelphia. Alonso was safe at first on the play.

Associated Press

and Turner hit his off the left-hander in the sixth inning. Chris Taylor drove in the go-ahead run on a double two batters later.

Julio Urias (4-2) allowed a hit in three innings in relief of Ross Stripling, who was on a limited pitch count in his return to the rotation. Kenley Jansen worked around Nick Ahmed's two-out single and stolen base in the ninth for his 23rd save.

The NL West-leading Dodgers have won seven of eight.

David Peralta had run-scoring hits in the first and third innings for the Diamondbacks, who have lost seven of nine.

BRAVES 3, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Ozzie Albies and Ronald Acuña Jr. homered, Max Fried pitched six innings of two-hit ball and Atlanta beat Chicago.

Acuña crushed the first pitch of the game from Cubs rookie Adbert Alzolay into the left-field bleachers for his 19th homer of the season. Albies hit a towering two-run shot to right center off Mike Montgomery (1-2) in the seventh that gave Atlanta the lead.

Fried (9-3) struck out eight, walked a season-high five and allowed two runs in winning his second straight

start. Relievers Sean Newcomb, Anthony Swarzak and Luke Jackson, who threw a perfect ninth for his 12th save, combined to complete the four-hitter.

Willson Contreras had two RBIs and fellow Venezuelan Alzolay tossed one-hit, one-run ball through 4 2/3 innings in his first major league start.

MARINERS 8, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Daniel Vogelbach hit a two-run homer to lift Seattle past Milwaukee for the Mariners' first interleague win in five tries this season.

Marco Gonzales (9-6) pitched five innings to earn his fourth consecutive win for the Mariners, who are playing at Miller Park for the first time since 2010. Four Mariners' relievers shut out the Brewers over the final four innings.

After the Brewers got a run in the first, the Mariners scored four times in the third off Milwaukee starter Zach Davies (7-2). J.P. Crawford drove in a run with a triple and Domingo Santana plated another with a double off the glove of Milwaukee shortstop Orlando Arcia. Vogelbach capped it with his 19th homer, a two-run, 419-foot shot into the second deck in right.

Seattle added two more runs in the fourth, aided by shoddy fielding by the Brewers. Yasmani Grandal hit a solo homer and Jesus Aguilar had a run-scoring single for Milwaukee in the fifth off Gonzales, who gave up eight hits and three runs.

ATHLETICS 7, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Chad Pinder and Marcus Semien homered in a six-run fifth inning, and Oakland rallied to beat St. Louis.

Matt Olson also went deep to help the Athletics win for the sixth time in eight games.

Tha A's, who had totaled nine runs over their last three games, overcame a 3-1 deficit with the big fifth inning to knock out Cardinals starter Jack Flaherty (4-5).

Flaherty gave up a season-high seven runs and nine hits and a walk in 4 2/3 innings. He gave up three homers to raise his total to nine allowed in five June starts. Overall, Flaherty has given up 18 homers in 16 starts this season.

J.B. Wendelken (1-1) picked up his first MLB victory after spending time with Oakland in parts of three seasons. He got the final two outs of the fourth inning and was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the bottom

of the fifth.

GIANTS 4, ROCKIES 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Madison Bumgarner struck out 11 batters in six innings and also drove in a run with an RBI single that helped lead San Francisco.

Bumgarner (4-7) bounced back from a rough start with a sharp performance in what could be an audition for a contender looking to add a proven playoff performer down the stretch. Bumgarner retired the first 10 batters he faced with six strikeouts before allowing a solo homer to Ian Desmond.

The only other run he gave up came in the sixth inning when left fielder Alex Dickerson appeared to lose a fly ball by David Dahl in the lights, leading to an RBI double that cut San Francisco's lead to 3-2.

Will Smith pitched the ninth for his 21st save.

Bumgarner also got into the act with his bat when he followed a two-out, RBI single by Donovan Solano in the fourth inning against Chi Chi González (0-1) with one of his own to make it 3-1.

Gio González (0-1), making his first appearance in the majors since 2016, allowed three runs and six hits in five innings. □

Goalie Roberto Luongo retires after 19 NHL seasons

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Sports Writer

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Roberto Luongo wanted to keep playing and keep chasing the elusive Stanley Cup, largely because he believes the Florida Panthers are finally in position to be a playoff contender.

His body wanted otherwise. And Luongo ultimately listened.

The most popular player in Panthers history announced his retirement Wednesday — doing so via Twitter in two different voices, one to support each side of his personality. The first was in his usual self-deprecating comic fashion, saying he “decided to take my talents to a South Beach retirement home.” The other was a heartfelt open letter to fans, where he revealed that he cried when he told his children he was done.

“This is one of the toughest decisions I’ve faced in my life and it took me a long time to make it,” Luongo wrote. “After thinking about it a lot over the past two months and listening to my body, I made up my mind. It just feels like the right time for me to step away from the game. I love the game so much, but the commitment I required to prepare, to keep my body ready, has become overwhelming.”

Luongo never hoisted the

Stanley Cup, though his legacy is secure regardless. His 489 career victories are third in NHL history behind only Martin Brodeur and Patrick Roy, and Brodeur is the only goalie to have appeared in more games or made more saves than Luongo.

It could be argued that no one was better for longer than Luongo was. Among the seven goaltenders to appear in at least 900 games, Luongo’s .919 save percentage is the best.

“From the moment I was fortunate enough to share a locker room with him, Roberto has exemplified leadership for me,” Panthers forward Vincent Trocheck said in a statement distributed by the Panthers. “There isn’t a classier, more professional guy in this league. He’s a great hockey player and somehow an even better person.”

Luongo leaves as a five-time All-Star and the Montreal native helped Canada win Olympic gold in 2010 and 2014. Also in his collection: two world championship gold medals, along with another one from the 2004 World Cup of Hockey.

The Panthers were prepared for the likelihood that Luongo may step away. General manager Dale Tallon said last week Luongo’s career had been “illustrious” and the fran-

chise was giving its most beloved player all the time he needed to make his decision.

“The impact that he has had on the developing core of our team, its culture and our community are undeniable,” Tallon said. “He has always approached everything with a determination and level of class that was second to none. He leaves not only a legacy in South Florida, but a legacy in the game itself.” Luongo was the fourth overall pick in the 1997 draft by the New York Islanders, with whom he made his NHL debut on Nov. 28, 1999. Luongo then spent five years with Florida, the next eight with Vancouver and returned to the Panthers on March 14, 2014. His last game was April 6, two days after his 40th birthday.

“I’m in awe of the legacy that he left on this franchise and on the sport,” Panthers captain Aleksander Barkov said. One of the last memories of Luongo’s time in Florida won’t be anything that happened in a game. Luongo lives in Parkland, Florida, the town that is still grieving the 17 people who were shot and killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14, 2018. The Panthers’ next home game was eight days later, and Luongo spoke for three minutes in a pregame on-ice ceremony



In this Sept. 13, 2018, file photo, Florida Panthers NHL hockey goalie Roberto Luongo answers questions from the media during the Panthers media day in Sunrise, Fla.

Associated Press

that paid tribute to the victims.

He’s moving now, to a new home — but still in Parkland. He is never leaving there.

“I’m building a home in Parkland and it’s going to be my family’s permanent home for the rest of our time on this earth,” Luongo said. He went into this offseason with an open mind about coming back. But when it was time in May to resume offseason workouts, the fire wasn’t there. And when he realized that he was dreading getting back onto the ice next month, the decision seemed academic. “For the first time in my career, I wasn’t excited about it,” Luongo said. “That was the sign for me. It’s not that I don’t love playing hockey anymore, but I had to listen to my body. I’m at the

point where my body was telling me it just needed a rest. It didn’t really want to get going.”

Luongo was under contract for three more seasons. He is giving up about \$10 million in future salary. He is also giving up a chance to play for a Panthers team that has designs on becoming a major contender. Florida hired Joel Quenneville as coach earlier this offseason, and is believed to be a front-runner to sign top free agent goalie Sergei Bobrovsky along with Artemi Panarin — both of whom were in Florida earlier this week to meet with the Panthers in advance of the signing period that starts Monday. Bobrovsky was a top priority for Florida even before Luongo let the team know that he was retiring. □

AIBA

Continued from Page 17

AIBA has an emergency meeting scheduled for Thursday in Geneva. Lalovic is expected to represent the IOC and meet AIBA executive committee members aiming to retain a role in the plan for Tokyo.

“I hope the IOC does realize there are many people in AIBA who are respectful, ethical and transparent who can provide their expertise,” Bulgarian boxing official Emilia Grueva said in a statement.

AIBA hoped for a reprieve

by Rakhimov leaving his duties to an interim replacement in March, though he could choose to return at any time this year.

“These risks don’t disappear by the mere fact of Mr. Rakhimov ‘stepping aside,’” IOC board member Lalovic said, adding the Uzbek’s “level of influence and control remains uncertain.”

In December 2017, the U.S. Treasury Department noted “Rakhimov has been described as having moved from extortion and car theft to becoming

one of Uzbekistan’s leading criminals and an important person involved in the heroin trade.”

The IOC had to avoid the consequences of fixed bouts or suspect results in Tokyo, said Morinari Watanabe, who leads the Olympic panel overseeing the Tokyo boxing competitions.

“It’s not just losing trust in boxing. It’s lost trust in the Olympic Games, it’s lost trust in the IOC,” said Watanabe, the Japanese president of the International Gymnastics Federation.

IOC president Thomas Bach said: “We are all concerned with the refereeing.”

Boxers’ lack of faith in AIBA at each Olympics from 2008 to 2016 was raised by Lalovic, who led a three-member inquiry team.

Those doubts persisted despite AIBA reviews after each Olympics, he told an audience that included former AIBA president C.K. Wu, an IOC member for 31 years.

Wu oversaw each post-Olympic integrity review. He was ousted by AIBA officials two years ago amid

a deepening financial crisis and protests about his often secretive leadership style.

Qualifying tournaments for Tokyo are intended to be held in four continents from January through March, likely in London, China, Senegal and Argentina. All are recent or future hosts of Olympic boxing competitions. A final global qualifier is expected to be held in Japan. That should give each boxer at least two chances to qualify, in eight weight classes for men and five for women. □

Tech makes it easier to search wilderness for missing people

By **AUDREY McAVOY**

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Yesenia D'Alessandro loaded a GPS tracking app on her cellphone and trudged into a remote Hawaii forest, joining more than 100 other volunteers looking for a missing hiker.

She climbed through muddy ravines, crossed streams and faced steep drop-offs in the thick tangle of trees and ferns where her college friend Amanda Eller vanished last month.

"You have to search everywhere," said D'Alessandro, who flew in from Maryland. "You have to go down to that stream bed, even though you don't want to. She could be down there." D'Alessandro and others gathered GPS data of the ground they covered, and organizers put it on a specialized digital map to help better understand where to look next.

The technology led volunteers to Eller, who was found next to a waterfall and survived for 17 days in the Maui forest by eating plants and drinking stream water. Her dramatic rescue shows how emerging technology helps search teams more efficiently scour the wilderness for missing people.

"It kind of led us to search outside of that high-priority area to where we actually found Amanda," her father, John Eller, said.

More U.S. teams are turning to the technology that combines cellphone GPS with digital maps detailing cliffs, caves, waterways and other hard-to-search terrain. It helps manage the work of large numbers of volunteers.

The system showed when Hawaii searchers had covered a 2-mile (3-kilometer) radius around Eller's car. After that, searchers sent a helicopter farther into the forest, where they spotted the 35-year-old physical therapist and yoga instructor.

"We never would have pushed out if we hadn't searched the reasonable area first. There's no reason to start reaching further



This photo provided by Yesenia D'Alessandro shows a volunteer in the Makawao Forest Reserve in Haiku, Hawaii on May 16, 2019, while searching for Amanda Eller, a yoga teacher and physical therapist who went missing during a hike.

and further out of the box if we hadn't completely searched the box," said Chris Berquist, a volunteer search leader.

David Kovar, advocacy director for the nonprofit National Association for Search and Rescue, said most search and rescue teams use digital maps. That could mean anything from basic Google Maps to specialized software called SARTopo, which California search and rescue experts used to advise Maui volunteers from afar.

Search organizers in Hawaii asked volunteers to download a \$3.99 app called GPS Tracks, which draws lines on a map showing where a user has walked.

GPS data revealed that searchers were covering the same areas repeatedly as heavy foliage or natural barriers like cliffs blocked their path, Berquist said.

Organizers started drop-

ping digital pins on volunteers' maps to give them targets, pushing volunteers to cover more ground and making the search more accurate.

When searchers ran into cliffs or pools of water, Berquist had them place digital pins on their maps. Organizers then sent drone pilots or rappelling experts to the cliffs and divers to the water.

Organizers fed the GPS data to the California team, which used SARTopo to overlay it on topographical maps, allowing everyone to see what areas had already been searched and what still needed to be checked.

Matt Jacobs, a California software engineer and search volunteer, developed SARTopo more than eight years ago after noticing teams struggling to match details on wilderness maps drawn by different

agencies.

What started as a hobby project has grown in popularity in the past couple of years to become Jacobs' full-time job. Search and rescue teams from Oregon to North Carolina have started using it.

Searchers used it in March as 100 volunteers fanned out in a Northern California forest, eventually finding 8-year-old Leia Carrico and her 5-year-old sister, Caroline, who got lost near their home.

Last month, teams used it to help locate a 67-year-old hiker who had veered off a trail in a state park north of San Francisco. A California Highway Patrol airplane using an infrared camera spotted the man.

SARTopo also is becoming available as a cellphone app, which will make it even easier to directly connect the GPS data with digital maps so searchers can

view them wherever they are. Government officials are looking at adopting new technology, including in Hawaii. Most large searches are done by volunteers because many places don't do enough of them to keep official teams on staff.

Maui firefighters used hand-drawn maps as they looked for Eller over the first three days of her going missing. That's because the trail system in the Makawao Forest Reserve where she got lost doesn't appear on Google Maps. County officials also overlaid aerial searches onto a satellite map.

Maui County Fire Services Chief Rylan Yatsushiro said the Maui Fire Department would adopt similar technology used by volunteers — who kept the search going after the first three days — if firefighters found it helpful after studying available options.

Mike St. John, volunteer leader of the search and rescue unit at the Marin County Sheriff's Office in California, said GPS tracking of where people have looked is "really critical."

"It's about using GPS maps and utilizing GPS to make sure you're hitting your assignment," said St. John, who was among those in California advising the Maui team.

St. John said his search and rescue experts are not set up to offer the same type of help to others that they gave to Maui but are trying to figure out how to do that in the future.

Berquist, the Hawaii search leader, visited California this week to talk with St. John about how Marin County's volunteer program works. He aims to set up something similar back in Maui.

After technology helped find Eller, her father is donating software and other equipment to Berquist's team, developing a search and rescue app and giving \$10,000 to support Hawaii searches and rescues.

"We saw a huge need. And we feel so lucky with everything everybody did for us, so we're looking to give back," John Eller said. □

Stocks rise amid fresh hopes for a US-China trade deal

By **ALEX VEIGA**
Associated Press

Technology companies led stocks higher on Wall Street in early trading Wednesday amid fresh optimism among investors that the U.S. and China are making progress toward a deal to resolve their costly trade war. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC that a trade deal between the two nations was "about 90%" done during recent negotiations. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are scheduled to meet at the G-20 summit this weekend. Meanwhile, a Bloomberg report citing unnamed sources suggested the U.S. is willing to hold off on imposing tariffs on an additional \$300 billion in Chinese imports ahead of the next round of trade talks. The Trump administration has already imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and China has retaliated with tariffs on U.S. goods. The escalating trade dispute remains the biggest source of uncertainty looming over the market. Investors are worried the fallout



In this June 20, 2019, file photo trader Joseph Lawler works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

from the tariffs could hurt global economic growth and corporate profits. Chipmakers led the rally in technology stocks early Wednesday after Micron Technology forecast improved demand for smartphone chips the rest of the year. Energy stocks also rose as the price of U.S. crude oil climbed 2.8%. Hess gained 3.5% and Marathon Petroleum rose 3%. Banks gained as bond

prices fell, sending yields higher. When bond yields rise it helps banks' ability to charge higher interest on loans. JPMorgan Chase gained 1.2% and Bank of America rose 1%. Health care and consumer staples stocks were among the biggest laggards. Johnson & Johnson fell 1.8% and J.M. Smucker dropped 3.1%. General Mills slumped after the packaged foods

Associated Press
maker's latest quarterly results topped Wall Street's expectations, but it also reported weak sales trends in North America. **KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 index was up 0.2% as of 10:28 a.m. Eastern Time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 51 points, or 0.2%, to 26,600. The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, gained 0.7% and the Russell 2000 index

of smaller company stocks picked up 0.1%. The market is coming off a three-day losing streak, though it is on track to end June with solid gains. The benchmark S&P 500 index is about 1.1% below the record high it set on Thursday. Major stock indexes in Europe were mostly lower. **ALL ABOUT TRADE:** This week's G-20 meeting in Osaka, Japan, is the first opportunity Trump and Xi have had to thrash out the trade dispute face-to-face since Trump said he was preparing to target the \$300 billion in Chinese imports that he hasn't already hit with tariffs, extending them to everything China ships to the United States. The two sides are in a stalemate after 11 rounds of talks that have failed to overcome U.S. concerns over China's acquisition of American technology and its massive trade surplus. China denies forcing U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets and says the surplus is much smaller than it appears once the trade in services and the value extracted by U.S. companies are taken into account. □

FedEx loses \$2 billion, warns of headwinds in coming year

By **DAVID KOENIG**
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — FedEx Corp. posted weak quarterly results in its core express business and warned Tuesday that its profit in the year ahead will be hurt by slowing growth in the world economy and the decision to drop a contract with retail giant Amazon. The delivery company reported a quarterly loss of nearly \$2 billion. However, excluding an accounting charge for retirement plans and other items that the company doesn't expect will repeat, the results were better than Wall Street expected. FedEx started a new fiscal year this month, and Chief Financial Officer Alan Graf said the company's performance, especially at FedEx Express, is being hurt by continued weakness in global trade and industrial



In this July 27, 2017, shows a Federal Express employee makes a delivery at an AT&T store in Hialeah, Fla.

production. The company announced this month that it would not renew an airfreight-delivery contract with Amazon that expires June 30. It did not disclose the value of that work, but said Amazon accounted for less than 1.3% of its revenue in 2018. FedEx also finds itself in the middle of a trade dispute between the U.S. and Chi-

Associated Press
na. On Monday, the company sued the Commerce Department, seeking to stop it from enforcing export rules that restrict shipments to, among others, Chinese telecommunications-equipment maker Huawei Technologies. Huawei was recently added to a list of companies barred from receiving U.S. technology without a special li-

cense from the Commerce Department. In the fiscal fourth quarter, which ended May 31, FedEx reported a loss of \$1.97 billion, compared with profit of \$1.13 billion a year earlier. FedEx said that adjusted profit excluding various charges was \$5.01 per share. While down from \$5.91 a year earlier, the results beat expectations. The average estimate of 11 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for \$4.81 per share. Revenue rose 3% to \$17.81 billion, which met the analysts' forecasts. The company's biggest business, express, saw lower revenue from international priority packages, and the unit's operating income slid by 12% on a 1% dip in sales. FedEx Ground ran into rising costs as it shifted to a year-round schedule of six

days a week. The company plans to go seven days a week starting next January. The unit's income was flat despite 11% higher revenue. "The quarter was a mixed bag," said Matt Arnold, an analyst with Edward Jones. "Ground continues to perform well, freight continues to perform well, but unfortunately on the international side the express business is still under pressure — essentially no change from what we saw a quarter ago." For the year, FedEx, which is based in Memphis, Tennessee, reported profit of \$540 million on revenue of \$69.69 billion. FedEx shares fell \$4.92, or 3.1%, to close Tuesday at \$155.98 before the release of the results. During extended trading after the financial results were released, the shares were up \$1.05 to \$157.03. □

Mutts



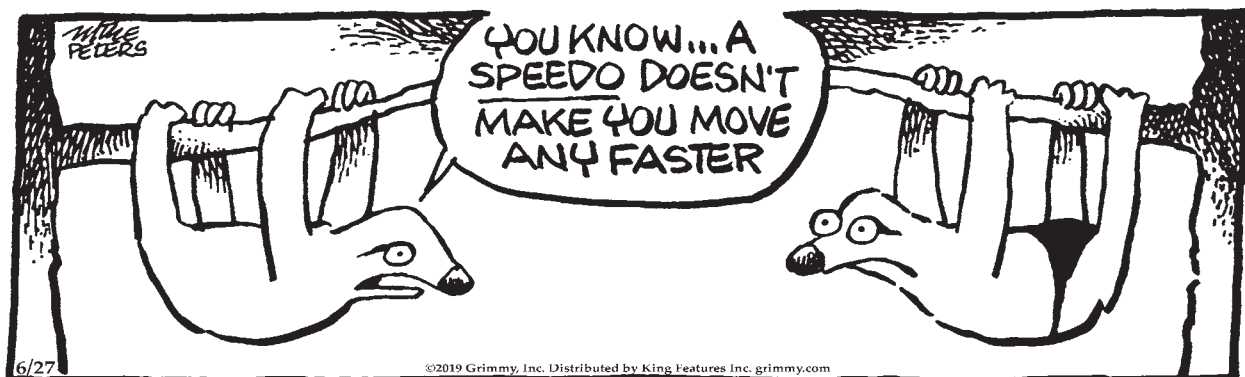
6 Chix



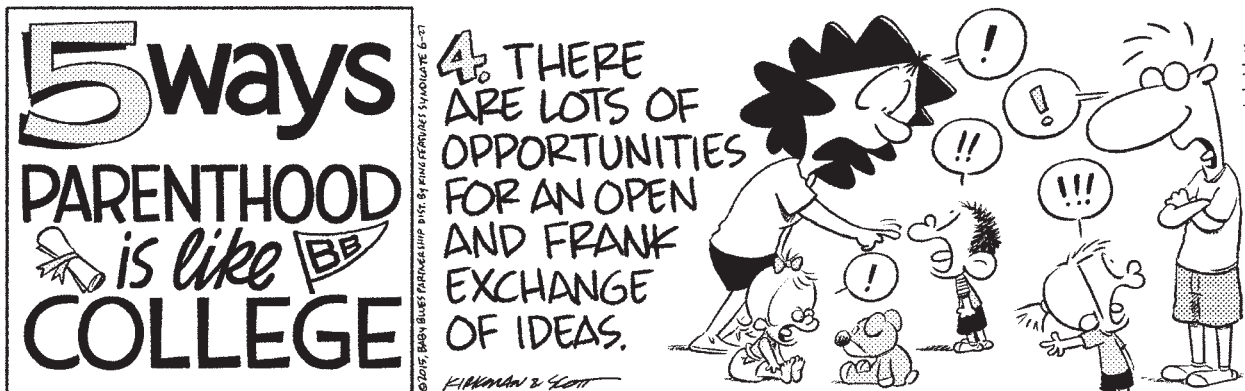
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	2		6		8			
				4				6
9	8					7		
	3	8	9					
	6						2	
					5	6	7	
		5					9	8
1				7				
			5		3		1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/27

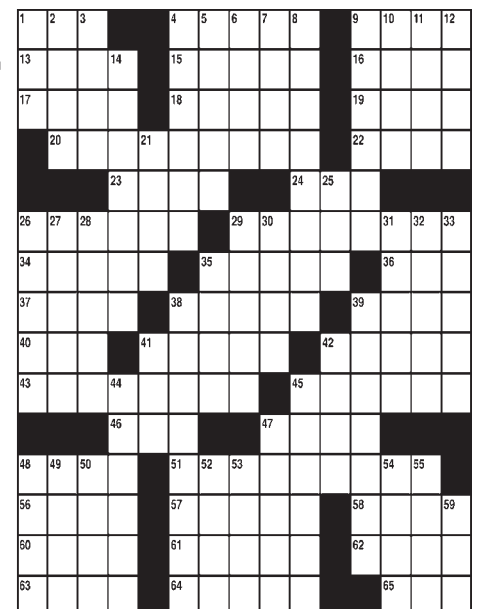
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	5	6	8	3	7	4	1	9
3	8	4	1	9	6	2	7	5
1	7	9	5	2	4	6	3	8
7	9	1	3	5	2	8	6	4
5	4	2	6	1	8	7	9	3
8	6	3	7	4	9	1	5	2
9	3	7	4	8	1	5	2	6
6	2	8	9	7	5	3	4	1
4	1	5	2	6	3	9	8	7

ACROSS

- 1 Tic-__toe
- 4 Part of a golf club
- 9 __ market; swap meet
- 13 Lubricates
- 15 "__, Dolly!"
- 16 Outdoor banquet
- 17 Horse's gait
- 18 Role on "M.A.S.H."
- 19 College study
- 20 Upper
- 22 Part of a three-piece suit
- 23 Captures
- 24 Knot-tying words
- 26 Soldier's casual wear
- 29 Put up with
- 34 Went wild
- 35 Small ducks
- 36 Massage
- 37 __ the moon; elated
- 38 Screwdriver ingredient
- 39 Gray wolf
- 40 Prefix for profit or sense
- 41 Loses hair
- 42 Ladies
- 43 In reality
- 45 Pet bird
- 46 Plato's "I"
- 47 Sharp taste
- 48 Fissure; split
- 51 __ to; as reported by
- 56 Up to the task
- 57 Cruel man
- 58 "All You __ Is Love"; Beatles hit
- 60 __ at; taunt
- 61 Moving gracefully
- 62 Fence opening
- 63 Wood splitters
- 64 Jed Clampett's portrayer
- 65 Like sushi seafood



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/27/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

PUN	ARENA	FAST
FINE	LOTUS	LIKE
REST	COCKAMAMIE	
IDO	TOTHE	OUSTS
CLOTS	BAN	
PRIEST	PENTUP	
LOANS	ALIAS	NAP
EBBS	TWEED	HERO
AIL	FUROR	LOVER
NEARBY	PUREST	
DOA	PECAN	
STEMS	CLARK	TOE
TRAITOROUS	UFOS	
AUST	LIASSO	PUPS
BETS	EBSEN	ALS

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6/27/19

DOWN

- 1 Little child
- 2 Haughtiness
- 3 Blood __; thrombus
- 4 Bushes
- 5 Makes well
- 6 Actor Alan
- 7 French pastry
- 8 Burrito maker's need
- 9 Taste
- 10 Tempt
- 11 Dines
- 12 Vienna's nation: abbr.
- 14 Angry skunk
- 21 Motel employee
- 25 __ Moines
- 26 Sweden's currency
- 27 Chaos
- 28 FBI operative
- 29 Child's bear
- 30 White __; Maryland's state trees
- 31 Fragrance
- 32 Potato or yam
- 33 Blackish wood
- 35 Bridge-crosser's fee
- 38 Worth a lot
- 39 Yearning
- 41 Ewe's cry
- 42 Magician's stick
- 44 Says
- 45 Lurch out of control
- 47 Take __ cleaners; leave penniless
- 48 Rani's husband
- 49 Wild goat
- 50 Escape
- 52 Nursery bed
- 53 Severs
- 54 Close
- 55 "__, grip!"; cry to the hysterical
- 59 Mountain __; soft drink



Polar bear Nanook jumps into the water at the zoo in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, June 25, 2019.

Associated Press

Orangutans, polar bears make a splash as Europe swelters

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Orangutans at a Vienna zoo got buckets of water, lemurs in Rome enjoyed fruit icicles and a polar bear took to a pool in Germany as much of Europe sweltered Tuesday in a summer heat wave. Authorities warned that temperatures could top 40 C (104 F) in some parts of the continent over the coming days, the effect of hot air moving northward from Africa.

The Red Cross federation

urged people to check on vulnerable friends, relatives and neighbors, citing the spike in heat-related deaths seen in Western Europe during a previous heat wave in 2003.

"The coming days will be challenging for a lot of people, but especially older people, young children, and people with underlying illnesses or limited mobility," said Dr. Davron Mukhamadiev, the federation's regional health coordinator for Europe. □



Classifieds



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NASA opening moon rock samples sealed since Apollo missions

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Inside a locked vault at Johnson Space Center is treasure few have seen and fewer have touched.

The restricted lab is home to hundreds of pounds of moon rocks collected by Apollo astronauts close to a half-century ago.

And for the first time in decades, NASA is about to open some of the pristine samples and let geologists take a crack at them with 21st-century technology.

What better way to mark this summer's 50th anniversary of humanity's first foot-steps on the moon than by sharing a bit of the lunar loot.

"It's sort of a coincidence that we're opening them in the year of the anniversary," explained NASA's Apollo sample curator Ryan Zeigler, covered head to toe in a white protective suit with matching fabric boots, gloves and hat.

"But certainly the anniversary increased the awareness and the fact that we're going back to the moon."

With the golden anniversary of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's feat fast approaching — their lunar module Eagle landed July 20, 1969, on the Sea of Tranquility — the moon is red-hot again.

After decades of flip-flopping between the moon and Mars as the next big astronaut destination, NASA aims to put astronauts on the lunar surface again by 2024 at the White House's direction.

President Donald Trump prefers talking up Mars. But the consensus is that the moon is a crucial proving ground given its rela-



Ryan Zeigler, Apollo sample curator, left, stands next to a nitrogen-filled case displaying various lunar samples collected during Apollo missions 15, 16 and 17, inside the lunar lab at the NASA Johnson Space Center Monday, June 17, 2019, in Houston.

tive proximity to home — 240,000 miles (386,000 kilometers) or two to three days away.

Zeigler's job is to preserve what the 12 moonwalkers brought back from 1969 through 1972 — lunar samples totaling 842 pounds (382 kilograms) — and ensure scientists get the best possible samples for study. Some of the soil and bits of rock were vacuum-packed on the moon — and never exposed to Earth's atmosphere — or frozen or stored in gaseous helium following splashdown and then left untouched. The lab's staff is now trying to figure out how best to remove the samples from their tubes and other containers without contaminating or spoiling anything. They're practicing with mock-up equip-

ment and pretend lunar dirt.

Compared with Apollo-era tech, today's science instruments are much more sensitive, Zeigler noted.

"We can do more with a milligram than we could do with a gram back then. So it was really good planning on their part to wait," he said.

The lunar sample lab has two side-by-side vaults: one for rocks still in straight-from-the-moon condition and a smaller vault for samples previously loaned out for study. About 70 percent of the original haul is in the pristine sample vault, which has two combinations and takes two people to unlock. About 15 percent is in safekeeping at White Sands in New Mexico. The rest is used for research or display.

Of the six manned moon landings, Apollo 11 yielded the fewest lunar samples: 48 pounds or 22 kilograms. It was the first landing by astronauts and NASA wanted to minimize their on-the-moon time and risk. What's left from this mission — about three-quarters after scientific study, public dis-

plays and goodwill gifts to all countries and U.S. states in 1969 — is kept mostly here at room temperature. Armstrong was the primary rock collector and photographer.

Aldrin gathered two core samples just beneath the surface during the 2 1/2-hour moonwalk. All five subsequent Apollo moon landings had longer stays. The last three — Apollo 15, 16 and 17 — had rovers that significantly upped the sample collection and coverage area.

"Fifty years later, we're still learning new things ... incredible," said the lab's Charis Krysher, holding a clear acrylic marble embedded with chips of Apollo 11 moon rock in her gloved hand.

By studying the Apollo moon rocks, Zeigler said, scientists have determined the ages of the surfaces of Mars and Mercury, and established that Jupiter and the solar system's other big outer planets likely formed closer to the sun and later migrated outward.

"So sample return from outer space is really powerful about learning about

the whole solar system," he said.

Andrea Mosie, who's worked with the Apollo moon rocks for 44 years and was a high school intern at Johnson Space Center in July 1969, remembers the Polaroid photos and handwritten notes once accompanying each sample. She sometimes gets emotional when talking to children about the moonshots and does her best to dispel any notion that the rocks aren't from the moon and the lunar landings never happened.

"The samples are right here and they're still in a pristine state," she assures young skeptics.

Most of the samples to be doled out over the next year were collected in 1972 during Apollo 17, the final moonshot and the only one to include a geologist, Harrison Schmitt. He occasionally visits the lunar sample lab and plans to help open the fresh specimens.

The nine U.S. research teams selected by NASA will receive varying amounts.

"Everything from the weight of a paperclip, down to basically so little mass you can barely measure it," Zeigler said.

Especially tricky will be extracting the gases that were trapped in the vacuum-sealed sample tubes. The lab hasn't opened one since the 1970s.

"If you goof that part up, the gas is gone. You only get one shot," Zeigler said. The lab's collection is divided by mission, with each lunar landing getting its own cabinet with built-in gloves and stacks of stainless steel bins filled with pieces of the moon. Apollo 16 and 17, responsible for half the lunar haul, get two cabinets apiece.

The total Apollo inventory now exceeds 100,000 samples; some of the original 2,200 were broken into smaller pieces for study.

Sample processor Jeremy Kent is hopeful that "we will get some more samples here in the lab to work on." There's space for plenty more. □



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Desus & Mero shake up the late night talk show universe

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Daniel Baker and Joel Martinez may be hosts of a late night TV talk show that attracts A-list celebrities but they don't feel like they're competing with the likes of Jimmy Fallon or Stephen Colbert.

The comedians, who go by Desus Nice & The Kid Mero, got their break in podcasts and they fill their Showtime slot with conversation, jokes, viral clips, celebrity slip-ups and offbeat local news stories. They call it "a hodgepodge of the full day's topics." It's spontaneous and less gimmicky than their higher-profile rivals.

"Other guys shout out to them but they have a formula," said Mero, the stage name of Martinez. "That's not what we wanted to do. We wanted to come and do something totally different. And even the term 'late-night show' it applies to our show because it comes on late at night, but it's not your typical late-night show."

Fans will get a chance to see them up close in person this summer when they hit the road, visiting cities like Houston, Los Angeles, Miami and more. Tickets are currently on sale.

"The show is a live version of the podcast," said De-



This March 19, 2019 photo shows Daniel Baker, better known as Desus Nice, left, and Joel Martinez, also known as The Kid Mero, during a portrait session in New York. The pair host the late night series "Desus & Mero," on Showtime.

sus. "At the beginning of the day, it started with our podcast and at the end of the day, it's going to be our podcast."

They're doing what they want on their own terms, the same traits that caught

the eyes of Complex Media, which noticed their hysterical Twitter interaction and paired them up for a podcast that quickly turned to video. That led to their popular show on Viceland, and now Baker

and Martinez host "Desus & Mero on Showtime," the premium network's first late-night show.

"We're not a bunch of pundits breaking stuff down. We're just like, 'This is weird. This is weird. This is not how

America works. But wow! What's going on?'" said Desus, the stage name of Baker.

Part of the charm of Desus & Mero is that they don't hide their New York-ness. Most on-air talent eliminates clothing, accents or vernacular that could alienate different parts of the country. But Desus and Mero not only embrace it, but turn the dial up.

"When the revolution comes, we going to kill all the rich people and eat them," Desus joked to an audience recently. "We're not rich, though. We from the Bronx. Being rich in the Bronx is like, what, 40 thou?" Although they might be newcomers to late-night, they haven't shied from the action. While they shoot the breeze with everyone from actors to directors to recording artists, they've hit a sweet spot with politics.

They've toasted Kirsten Gillibrand at a bar, drank malt liquor in the park from bottles wrapped in brown paper bags with Pete Buttigieg and visited fellow Bronx resident Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in her Washington, D.C. office she was their first Showtime guest. (To remind her of the Bronx, they presented her with a Puerto Rican flag, a Fat Joe VHS tape and a Cardi B Fathead.) □

The Raconteurs venture to new places on 3rd album

By RAGAN CLARK

Associated Press

The Raconteurs, "Help Us Stranger" (Third Man Records)

Often a band is defined by its strongest member. A lead vocalist pushes to the front while the rest of the group fades behind.

For The Raconteurs, this is not the case. Jack White may be the most popular band member (and the most distinctive vocally), but each is essential on "Help Us Stranger," the foursome's first album since 2008. While White is known for his many projects — The White Stripes, The Dead Weather and his solo career — The Raconteurs



This April 1, 2019 file photo shows Jack White performing at Loretta Lynn's 87th Birthday Tribute in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

is White at his strongest, with songwriting help from Brendan Benson, who only propels White's inventive, genre-bending style. They are backed by bassist Jack Lawrence and drummer Patrick Keeler, two musicians who can't be underestimated.

"Don't Bother Me" is just the kind of song you'd hope to hear from a band known for pushing boundaries. Its frantic musical composition matches the chaos that the lyrics sketch out: "Your hidden agenda/You ruthless rule bender/Your surface duplicity/It's all nothing new to me."

"Shine the Light on Me" is similarly experimental. The

track starts with whirling, distorted notes before harmonies pour in an almost Queen-like manner. Benson's voice smoothly intertwines with White's before fat piano chords clamor over the track as he sings, "When you're searching in the dark/It doesn't matter if you're blind does it?/ Can't you see?" Overall, the 12-track set never disappoints. Each song is unique and vital. From the angst of "Don't Bother Me" to the weighty "Thoughts and Prayers," with its searing violin and Nashville soul and blues influence, "Help Us Stranger" is a rock 'n' roll album that is not afraid to venture to new places. □

In latest 'Annabelle,' a babysitting gig goes awry

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

What a spell for sentient toys. A week after the child-crafted plaything Forky found life in "Toy Story 4" and Chucky was reborn in "Child's Play," the evil vintage doll of the "Conjuring" spinoff series "Annabelle" is back, too, in "Annabelle Comes Home." Surely, a tea party must be in the offing. If movie theaters are start-

ing to feel as cluttered as a kid's play room, that pileup is nothing compared to the growing collection of movies from the extended Conjuring-verse. There have been eight films in the franchise in the last six years, with offshoots for "The Nun" and "The Curse of La Llorona." Demonic forces turn out to be like Russian dolls. Open one up and out tumbles a trilogy. Almost as a rule, the "Con-



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Madison Iseman, from left, Katie Sarife and McKenna Grace in a scene from the horror film, "Annabelle Comes Home."

Associated Press

jur-ing" movies are slavishly devoted to horror clichés, and it can feel like they're simply going down a list: Creaking doors, check. Possessed playthings, check. Lots of crosses, check. How about a ghoulish bride? You got it. They collectively worship at the altar of William Friedkin's "The Exorcist," aping both its Catholic hokum and title font. These are proudly old-school movies composed of simple frights and legit craft.

They are also, for better or worse, almost comforting horror movies, safely sealed in a trope-filled movie world that doesn't, like Jordan Peele's films, claw at our own. That's especially

true of screenwriter-turned-director Gary Dauberman's "Annabelle Comes Home," which echoes as much with sincerity as it does screaming. It's less scary than spooky, and you almost feel as though if these movies keep going, eventually Scooby and the gang are going to solve one of these mysteries.

But for now we still have the central demonologists of the movies, Ed and Lorraine Warren (Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga). They have a calming presence over the whole ordeal. So versed are they in the supernatural that they don't bat an eye when the clocks start speeding backward or the cemetery

dead appear in their headlights. That's more or less how "Annabelle Comes Home" begins. The Warrens are driving home when it dawns on them that the doll they've just acquired — which got not one but two origin stories in "Annabelle" and "Annabelle Creation" — is a kind of beacon for evil. When they get to their Connecticut split-level, they put Annabelle behind glass in their locked room of artifacts, a collection of so much haunted stuff that it's blessed weekly by a priest.

But for much of "Annabelle Comes Home," Ed and Lorraine are out of town, leaving their 10-year-old daughter Judy (McKenna Grace) in the hands of her teenage baby sitter Mary Ellen (Madison Iseman). She and Mary Ellen are having a fine time together, but trouble comes in the form of Mary Ellen's friend, Daniela (Katie Sarife), who shows up uninvited and mischievously curious about the Warrens' work. She's also hiding her own grief, having recently lost her father in a car accident. Yearning for some connection to what's beyond the grave, she's drawn intractably to the locked room and, naturally, to Annabelle. □

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Alcoholics Anonymous' 'Big Book' collection up for auction

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A collection of 19 first-edition copies of the founding document of Alcoholics Anonymous, known to adherents as the "Big Book," will be auctioned off in Los Angeles next month.

The auction house Profiles in History said Tuesday that the collection will be part of a single lot that includes a 1940 stock certificate used at the time to raise funds to continue printing the Big Book. The books are signed by the founding members of AA. They were collected over a lifetime by Ken Roberts, who last year put up for auction the origi-



This undated photo provided by Profiles In History shows a collection of 19 first-edition copies of the founding document of Alcoholics Anonymous, known to adherents as the "Big Book," that will be auctioned off in Los Angeles next month.

Associated Press

nal working manuscript for the Big Book. It sold for \$2.4 million to Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay.

The first-edition collection is estimated to sell for up to \$500,000 when it hits the block July 11. □

Germany hands Israel thousands of Kafka confidant's papers

By DAVID RISING

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German authorities on Tuesday handed over to Israel some 5,000 documents kept by a confidant of Franz Kafka, a trove whose plight could have been plucked from one of the author's surreal stories.

The papers returned include a postcard from Kafka from 1910 and personal documents kept by Max Brod, which experts say provide a window into Europe's literary and cultural scene in the early 20th century.

They are among some 40,000 documents, including manuscripts, correspondence, notebooks and other writings that once belonged to Brod, which are being brought together again in Israel's National Library. They had ended up in bank vaults in Switzerland and Tel Aviv, a Tel Aviv apartment and in a storage facility in Wiesbaden, Germany, where police found them tucked among forged Russian avant-garde artworks.

"I think he (Kafka) would really be amused," said National Library archivist Stefan Litt, who helped identify the papers recovered in Germany. "He couldn't



Israel's ambassador in Germany, Jeremy Issacharoff, holds documents prior to a handing over ceremony at the embassy of Israel in Berlin, Germany.

invent by himself a better plot."

The documents recovered in Wiesbaden have little to do with Kafka himself, but make the Brod collection complete and shine a light on Brod and his circle, which included Kafka and other writers, Litt said.

"This is an important chapter in Max Brod's estate," Litt said. "It's always good for researchers to have as complete a picture as possible."

After the formal handover of the documents from Germany's Federal Criminal Police at the Israeli ambassador's residence in Berlin, National Library chairman David Blumberg pledged to make the whole collection available to everybody.

"Everything will be published, everything will be digitized, so we can share it with the world," he said.

Kafka, a Bohemian Jew from Prague who lived for

a while in Berlin, was close friends with Brod, himself an accomplished writer. Shortly before his untimely death at 40 of tuberculosis in 1924, Kafka bequeathed his writings to Brod, reportedly telling him to burn them all unread.

Instead, Brod published much of the collection, including the novels "The Trial," "The Castle," and "Amerika," helping to posthumously establish Kafka as one of the great authors of

the 20th century. He also brought "Kafkaesque" into the English language to describe bizarre, illogical or nightmarish situations like the ones Kafka wrote about. After the Nazis occupied the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia in 1938, Brod fled to escape persecution with the entire collection to what was then British-ruled Palestine. When Brod died, he left his personal secretary Esther Hoffe in charge of his literary estate and instructed her to transfer the Kafka papers to an academic institution.

Instead, she kept the documents for the next four decades and sold some, like the original manuscript of Kafka's "The Trial," which fetched \$1.8 million at auction in 1988. She kept some items in a bank vault in Tel Aviv, some in Switzerland, and others at her apartment in Tel Aviv.

When she died in 2008, the collection went to her two daughters, who fought to keep it but eventually lost a battle in Israel's Supreme Court in 2016. The court sided with the country's National Library, whose lawyers had argued the Kafka papers were "cultural assets" that belonged to the Jewish people. □

Beth Chapman, co-star of bounty hunter reality TV, dies

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLER

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Beth Chapman, the wife and co-star of "Dog the Bounty Hunter" reality TV star Duane "Dog" Chapman, died on Wednesday.

A family spokeswoman, Mona Wood-Sword, said in a statement that Chapman died early Wednesday at Queen's Medical Center after an almost 2-year battle with cancer. She was 51. Chapman was diagnosed with throat cancer in September 2017 after getting a nagging cough checked out. A tumor was removed and she was declared cancer-free. But in November 2018, she was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer.



In this Wednesday, June 5, 2013, file photo, Duane "Dog" Chapman, right, and Beth Chapman present the award for CMT performance of the year at the CMT Music Awards at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

"This is the time she would wake up to go hike Koko Head mountain," Duane Chapman posted on Twitter early Wednesday. "Only

today, she hiked the stairway to heaven. We all love you, Beth. See you on the other side."

On Friday, Chapman had

difficulty breathing and passed out momentarily, Wood-Sword said. She regained consciousness when emergency workers arrived at her Honolulu home and gave her oxygen. Doctors decided to put her in a medically induced coma in a Honolulu hospital to spare her pain while treating her, Wood-Sword said.

Born Alice Elizabeth Smith in Denver, Chapman had lived in Honolulu since 1989. In 2006, she and Duane Chapman, the self-proclaimed world's best bounty hunter, married during a sunset ceremony at a Big Island resort after being together for 16 years.

"I've already been cuffed and shackled by Beth any-

way," he told The Associated Press at the time.

The wedding took place two days after the death of Duane Chapman's 23-year-old daughter, Barbara Katy Chapman, who died in a car accident near her home in Fairbanks, Alaska. The couple decided to go forward with the wedding to celebrate her life. The wedding was featured in an episode of the A&E series "Dog the Bounty Hunter," which followed the duo's exploits in apprehending people who have avoided arrest warrants.

In 2007, Hawaii lawmakers honored the crime-fighting couple for their work capturing criminals and giving them hope for a better way of life. □

Revamped museum takes new look at Belgium's colonial past

By **RAF CASERT**

Associated Press

TERVUREN, Belgium (AP)

— For decades, Belgian schoolchildren had come to the Africa Museum near Brussels to marvel at the stuffed animals, drums, ritual masks and minerals that glowed in the darkness of vast cellars. Old colonialists lounged for languid lunches, reminiscing about their glorious past.

Hidden out of sight was the dark side of colonialism in Belgian Congo — the killings, the sepia photos of Congolese whose hands were hacked off purely out of petty retribution.

Not anymore. The museum, long called the last colonial museum in the world, is re-opening on Saturday after more than 10 years spent revamping the building and overhauling its dated, one-sided approach to history.

It's been a huge challenge for director Guido Gryseels, who has to put Belgium's colonial abuse in its context in the very museum that the chief perpetrator of the horrors of Congo had built for his own glory. Worse, the culprit was a former monarch — Leopold II — whose dark legacy has long remained shielded from full scrutiny.

With the museum's reopening, "we provide the critical view of the colonial past," Gryseels said in an interview. "We try to provide the Africa view of colonization."

A Congolese artist's statue receives pride of place in



Museum director Guido Gryseels, left, looks out from the new visitor center onto the original Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

the new exhibition space, while many statues representing the most denigrating, clichéd views of the Congolese have been rounded up into a windowless room.

Still, the palatial 1910 museum is a protected monument, and erasing all the fingerprints of the king and perfidious glorification of colonialism was never an option. Leopold's double-L anagram is still plastered on walls and ceilings as the defiant stamp of a bygone era, and gold-lettered panels still lionize "Belgium offering civilization to Congo."

The Royal Palace said that King Philippe will not attend Saturday's ceremonial opening, citing continu-

ing debates on art restitution and disagreements among researchers and the African diaspora. "The king tends to go to events where consensus reigns," a palace official said.

Gryseels maintains that history has its place, but he says he's not an apologist for colonialism or Belgium's suppression of Congo.

"It's immoral. It's based on the military occupation of a country. It's based on racism. It is based on the exploitation of resources," he said amid crates, ladders and protective foil during the final stages of renovation.

"I must say that in recent years the dialogue has become more difficult. The younger generations are far more militant," Gryseels said. "What they say is: 'The proof of the pudding will be in the eating'."

Leopold's ruthless early rule over Congo from 1885 to 1908 is notorious for its brutality when the Congo Free State was practically his personal fiefdom.

American writer Adam Hochschild alleged in his 1998 book "King Leopold's Ghost" that Leopold reigned over the mass death of 10 million Congolese. In fiction, Belgian Congo provided the backdrop for "Heart of Darkness," Joseph Conrad's classic nov-

el on colonial exploitation. After Leopold handed over Congo to the Belgian state, the tiny nation continued to hold sway over an area 80 times its size half a world away, until independence in 1960.

Colonialists have long regarded the museum as a haven of nostalgia. "For them, this is their home and they are very nostalgic about this place," Gryseels said. They see Belgium's role in Congo as benign: building roads, providing health care, spreading Christianity and giving Congo a standard of living few others in Africa had at the time.

"They're a bit disappointed about the critical view," he said.

It'd be wrong to assume that all Africans were re-

pulsed by the old museum. When Congolese-born Aime Enkobo moved to Brussels and wanted to show his children his heritage, he came to the AfricaMuseum.

"For me it was to show them our culture. What artists did, created, the aesthetics, to explain that. It is what interested me. It was not the images that showed that whites were superior to blacks My kids asked me no questions on that," Enkobo said.

Still, controversy is increasingly commonplace — and it has come from Belgians as well as the Congolese diaspora here.

Critics have increasingly questioned street names honoring colonialists, and statues have been given explanatory plaques highlighting the death and destruction colonialism spawned. A sculpture of Leopold II has had its bronze hand chopped off, and another was targeted with rude graffiti last year.

A lot of work is left. "You won't find a town or city in Belgium, where you don't have a colonial street name, monument or plaque. It is everywhere," said activist and historian Jean-Pierre Laus.

He was instrumental in getting one of the first explanatory plaques next to a Leopold statue in the town of Halle, just south of Brussels, almost a decade ago. Instead of glorifying the monarch, it now reads: "the rubber and ivory trade, which was largely controlled by the King, took a heavy toll on Congolese lives." □



A sculpture called the 'Leopard Man', second left, is stored with others in a cavernous room at the Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

Associated Press



A stuffed elephant on display in the halls of the Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

Associated Press